



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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26 March 1991

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Cameroon

Biya Congratulates Kuwaiti, Saudi Monarchs on War

AB2103145691 Yaounde Domestic Service
in French 1900 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Excerpt] President Biya has sent congratulatory messages to Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah of Kuwait and to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia on the end of the Gulf war.

To the Kuwaiti Amir, the president wrote: Your Highness, on behalf of the Cameroonian Government and people and on my own behalf, I have the honor to send you warm congratulations on the occasion of the end of the Gulf war which Iraq imposed on the peace and freedom-loving world. Iraq's defeat resulted in the total liberation of your country, the restoration of its independence and sovereignty, as well as Your Highness' legitimate government. The Cameroonian Government and people are happy with the fulfillment of the objectives the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] and the UN Security Council laid down in relevant resolutions endorsed by Cameroon.

Since Iraq's invasion of your country on 2 August 1990, we have followed with admiration all the moves you initiated in all international organizations toward the liberation of Kuwait, and the restoration of peace and security in the region. I hope that after this war, which claimed so many human lives and so much material damage, the Middle East problem will be definitively settled on the basis of international laws. We also hope that the cooperative ties among ICO member states in general, and between Cameroon and Kuwait in particular, will be further strengthened in the interest of our peoples. Highest regards.

Signed, Paul Biya, president of the Republic of Cameroon

President Paul Biya also sent a similar message to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Biya Rejects Call for National Conference

AB2303143591 Dakar PANA in English 1407 GMT
23 Mar 91

[Text] Yaounde, 23 March (CAMNEWS/PANA)—Cameroonian President Paul Biya, who is chairman of the ruling Cameroonian People's Democratic Assembly, Friday rejected calls by the opposition to hold a national conference to discuss political changes in his Central African nation.

According to a statement issued in Yaounde Saturday, Biya rejected the suggestion during a meeting of his party's Political Bureau. He said for Cameroon, the proposed conference was not necessary and lacked a legal basis because the Constitution gives opportunities for change. He said Cameroon went a step further by

adopting a law on political parties, which has been acclaimed as very liberal within the country and abroad.

According to Biya in some countries where national conferences were held, they led to democratic openness, which already exists in Cameroon. He urged all the people who claim to be democrats to prove it by respecting the Constitution and the laws.

On the opposition call for a general amnesty, the president said this can be granted without any pressure or violence and in accordance with the laws of Cameroon. He gave the example of the recent release from prison of people accused of taking part in the abortive coup against him on 6 April, 1984 as a measure of the government's understanding of the issues.

Rwanda

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Belgium

WA2503181191

For reportage on the visit by Casimir Bizimungu, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, to Belgium, including reports on his talks with Belgian officials, please see the Benelux section of the 25 March West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Zaire

Students Sack Malian Consulate in Kinshasa

AB2503201691 Dakar PANA in English 1855 GMT
25 Mar 91

[Text] Kinshasa, 25 March (PANA)—About a hundred students Monday [25 March] sacked the Malian Consulate in Kinshasa, Zaire, in revenge, they said, for the massacre of students in Mali on Friday and Saturday, an eyewitness said. Eyewitnesses said that the students swarmed the consulate where they pulled down the Malian flag, burnt it along with one vehicle and shattered the windscreens of three others belonging to the consulate.

Reacting to the event, the consul, Hamadi Ndiaye, told newsmen that the students would have manhandled him if he had been in the building when they stormed in.

About 10 Civil Guards (police) were immediately dispatched to the area to protect the building in anticipation of the students who promised to launch another attack.

Djibouti**President Aptidon Receives French Official**

EA2203104891 Djibouti Domestic Service
in Somali 1900 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Alhaji Hassan Gouled Aptidon, president of the Republic of Djibouti, today received the French secretary for relief affairs, who arrived from Somalia. Bernard Kouchner, secretary for relief affairs, said today that the French Government was sending 20 tonnes of food to Somalia. The secretary has on Tuesday, 19 March and Wednesday, 20 March been visiting northern and southern Somalia, where he had witnessed the results of the war.

Ethiopia**Rebels Say Attempts To Recapture Guguf 'Foiled'**

EA2503150591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Ethiopian
People for Peace, Democracy, and Freedom in Amharic
0400 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Although the enemy made an attempt, by deploying huge forces, to recapture its fortification which it lost on the Guguf front, it retreated with losses once again. It will be recalled that the heroic Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF] infiltrated and seized the fortification on the Guguf and [word indistinct] fronts, which the enemy took a long time to build and which it boasts of. The Workers Party of Ethiopia, which did not learn a lesson from its shameful defeat, deployed three brigades in the front line and three other brigades as rearguard to the area on 22 March to recapture the fortification controlled by our heroic army. However, our heroic army opened fire on the enemy force before it could advance even one step, thus foiling the enemy attempt and forcing it to retreat to its base with its soldiers killed or wounded. In the fighting, 137 soldiers were killed, 164 wounded, and four others captured, putting a total of 305 enemy soldiers out of action. [passage omitted]

EPRDF Says EPRP Engaged in 'Open Fighting'

EA2503151591 (Clandestine) Voice of the
Ethiopian People for Peace Democracy, and Freedom in
Amharic 0400 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Excerpt] The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party [EPRP], apart from its belligerent and conspiratorial acts against the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF], has now resorted to armed conflict. Advancing its belligerent and conspiratorial acts, it has now instigated open fighting against the EPRDF. The EPRP entered Chagne town 15 March and burned one of the government offices in the town. [passage omitted]

Official on War, Jews' Immigration to Israel

TA2303105491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio
in Hebrew 0905 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Telephone interview with Kassa Kapedde, senior adviser to Ethiopian leader Mengistu, by 'Adi Talmor, on the "Weekly Newsreel" program; time and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Talmor] Hello Mr. Kapedde.

[Kapedde] Hello.

[Talmor] How are you?

[Kapedde] I am fine.

[Talmor] How is President Mengistu?

[Kapedde] He is also okay.

[Talmor] Here in Israel, we have heard that the rebels are now threatening the capital Addis Ababa and Mengistu's regime more than ever before. Can you confirm those reports?

[Kapedde] No, I cannot confirm those reports. We had a problem last week and at the beginning of this week. We are now seeing an improvement in the situation.

[Talmor] What then is the security and military situation in Ethiopia at this time?

[Kapedde] It is getting better.

[Talmor] Would you say that Mengistu's regime is secure?

[Kapedde] Well, that is an issue pertaining to the state and the unity of the country. The problem goes back to before Mengistu's time and continues today.

[Talmor] What is the state of the problem today?

[Kapedde] We worked very hard to resolve the issue peacefully. We believed we could find a peaceful solution, and we went to many places to talk to the rebels. The fact is that they started the war following our peace talks in Washington—exactly one day afterwards. In the beginning things were difficult, but as I have just told you, the situation is improving.

[Talmor] What do you think will happen in Addis Ababa over the coming days and weeks?

[Kapedde] The rebels are fighting the entire Ethiopian people. There is no problem in Addis Ababa. Your press is obviously exaggerating matters, and that is a pity because there are many Israelis here who can supply more accurate information about the situation. The problem is not in Addis Ababa. The problem is in other places, but the situation will improve everywhere in a matter of weeks. The entire Ethiopian people is striving to change the situation.

[Talmor] What is the state of the thousands of Jews in Ethiopia?

[Kabedde] It is a fact that there are many Ethiopian Jews in Addis Ababa. The Ethiopian Jews left for Israel according to the family reunification program. There was a short hiatus that resulted from the Israelis working on this program not following the modalities [previous word in English] that we had agreed upon. We discussed the matter and I believe that they will fulfill their promises to us and that the process of family reunification will be able to continue.

[Talmor] Will the process of family reunification continue at the rate it had reached prior to the suspension?

[Kabedde] There is no reason that this should not happen if the Israelis keep their promises. We have a questionnaire dealing with family reunification that social workers in Israel have to fill out after interviewing the family member in Israel. If they continue to do that, there will be no problem. If they revert to their previous behavior, however—that is, filling out the questionnaire here and not in Israel and without interviewing the family member in Israel, and using one questionnaire for a lot of people who do not belong to the family listed on the questionnaire—then the problems will resurface.

[Talmor] Mr. Kabedde, you are certainly aware that the Ethiopian immigrants in Israel are very worried—and especially now—about the fate of their families in Addis Ababa. We have even heard that the Ethiopian authorities have drafted the children of Jews into the military. Is that true?

[Kabedde] First of all, there is no need to draft Jewish males into the army because we are aware of your situation. Why should we draft Jews who are waiting to join their families in Israel? Ethiopia is a country of 50 million people. That is our population, so we have no need to draft Jews. If I were to receive the news that the Ethiopian Jews get in Israel, I would also be worried.

[Talmor] What can you say, therefore, to Israelis and to Israelis of Ethiopian descent who wish to expedite the immigration of Jews to Israel?

[Kabedde] Ethiopia, or the Ethiopian Government, acting on a humanitarian basis, wants to see the process of family reunification continue at the rate it reached in January and February. We do not want to change that. The hiatus in Jewish immigration had its reasons and was not spontaneous [previous word in English]. We have spoken of that matter many times. The people we have working on that matter spoke with Jewish Agency representatives many times, and because the Jewish Agency officials did not want to improve the situation, we had to call a halt to the aliyah.

[Talmor] The reports in Israel and throughout the world suggested that the immigration from Ethiopia to Israel

was stopped because of your disappointment over promises made by the Israeli Government that it subsequently failed to keep. Is this true?

[Kabedde] That is not true. That is clearly blackmail [previous word in English]. There is no connection between the family reunification program and other goals. That includes the promises the Israelis made and did not...[changes thought]. There is no connection between the reunification of families and other things. We carry out family reunification on a humanitarian basis without any connection to other things. The reunification process will continue regardless of whether Israel keeps its promises or not. That is the position of the Ethiopian Government.

[Talmor] In summary, Mr. Kabedde, what can we wish for you and for the Ethiopian leader.

[Kabedde] At the current time I hope for an end to any type of blackmail [previous word in English], that you will do what you have to, and that the family reunification of Ethiopian Jews will continue.

[Talmor] Thank you very much, Mr. Kabedde.

Italian Ships Reportedly on Red Sea Alert

EA2103194491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 1500 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Excerpt] The Italian Government has ordered two of its ships on alert in the Red Sea. These can be used to evacuate its nationals who are in Eritrea and Ethiopia. The Italian foreign minister noted that these two ships, which were brought from the Gulf to the Red Sea, will be used to evacuate Italian nationals when the need arises. According to its information, 1,200 Italian nationals are in Addis Ababa and 580 in Asmera. [passage omitted]

'Surrendered' Youths Reportedly Rejoin Society

EA2503152191 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 24 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Thirty-seven youngsters who were fighting alongside the secessionist groups attempting to dismember Ethiopia, and who recently surrendered peacefully on different fronts, rejoined society during the week. The youngsters rejoined society after undergoing a month's orientational education. Among the citizens who returned to a peaceful life, 34 are from the Sha'biyyah, [Eritrean People's Liberation Front], and three from the weyane [Tigray People's Liberation Front]. [passage omitted]

Dese Residents Said 'on Alert' To Maintain Peace

EA2503152591 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Residents of Dese town, in addition to asserting their struggle against the anti-unity forces, have decided to make available any assistance necessary for

the campaign. In their public meetings held today in every location [kebele], the people pledged to make financial and material contributions in order to secure victory in the struggle against the acts being carried out by the Sha'biyyah [Eritrean People's Liberation Front EPLF], and the Weyane [Tigray People's Liberation Front TPLF] aimed at dismembering the country and dislocating the people. They also asserted that all patriotic citizens must unite to counter and fight against the acts of the EPLF and TPLF. They said they would expose those who spread false propaganda among the people and promised to be on the alert in maintaining the peace and safety of the town. [passage omitted]

French Delegation Discusses Food Shortage

EA2303170091 Addis Ababa in English to
Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] A visiting French Government delegation led by Mr. Bernard Kouchner, minister of state for humanitarian affairs in the Prime Minister's Office, was briefed here in Addis Ababa today on the scope of the natural and manmade problems facing the country. Comrade Yilma Kasaye, the relief and rehabilitation commissioner, informed Mr. Kouchner and his colleagues that some 5.5 million Ethiopians are presently facing starvation and that 1.1 million metric tons of food grain are needed to cope with the situation. He said only 40 percent of the aid needed has so far been acquired.

Comrade Yilma stated that the situation has been further aggravated by the large influx of refugees from Somalia and the Sudan and of Ethiopian returnees from these two countries. Just as urgently required, the commissioner said, are transport vehicles, spare parts, fuel, tents, and clothing.

The French Government donated over 31,000 metric tons of food grain during 1984-1990. Agreement on the provision of over 4,000 metric tons of wheat was meanwhile signed recently through the Ethiopian Embassy in Paris.

Kenya

OAU's Salim Holds News Conference, Departs

EA2103224291 Nairobi Domestic Service
in English 1600 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the OAU secretary general, who has been in Kenya for a one-week visit, left the country today for the Seychelles.

Addressing a press conference at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport before his departure, Dr. Salim said his current visits are aimed at strengthening relations between his organization's Secretariat and African governments. He said the visits also help him as the secretary general to understand the problems facing the continent and how they can be solved amicably. He said

his talks with Kenyan leaders, which mainly focused on issues affecting the continent, were most successful. [passage omitted]

Somalia

MiG Strafes Airport, Misses Envoy's Plane

AB2503194691 Paris AFP in English 1913 GMT
25 Mar 91

[Text] Kismaayo, Somalia, March 25 (AFP)—A Somalia MiG fighter plane fired on the Italian ambassador's plane at the airport in this southern Somali port city on Monday, Ambassador Mario de Sica said. Crew members said the fighter, a government plane believed to be flown by forces loyal to the United Somali Congress, strafed Kismaayo airport, narrowly missing the ambassador's Boeing 707 plane, which was on the ground at the time.

Mr. de Sica was holding talks in the city in a bid to arrange a ceasefire between Somalia's different armed factions. No one was hurt. Mr. de Sica, the ambassador to Somalia who left the capital Mogadishu in mid-January before guerrillas of the rebel United Somali Congress (USC) ousted military strongman Mohamed Siad Barre, is trying to end fighting between the USC and an alliance led by the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM) and the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF). The USC angered other armed groups in Somalia by appointing an interim president, Ali Mahdi Mohamed, after overthrowing Major-General Siad Barre, still in Somalia. SPM and SSDF forces last week captured the town of Shalaamboot, 90 kilometres (55 miles) south of the capital. On Friday they advanced north of Shalaamboot to positions only 65 kilometres from Mogadishu. But they were driven back to Bufo, about four kilometres north of Shalaamboot, early Monday, SSDF leaders said here.

On Sunday Mr. de Sica visited the northern port of Berbera, held by another group, the Somali National Movement, and Mogadishu, where he met USC leaders before going to Kismaayo on Monday. He is believed to be working for a cease-fire to be followed by a national reconciliation conference at which the different armed factions would discuss the future of war-scarred Somalia. The economy has ground to halt, and many parts of the impoverished Horn of Africa country are desperately short of food. Aid has been trickling in from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Italy, but has fallen far short of meeting the country's needs.

Efforts to bring the warring factions to the negotiating table have so far come to nothing, though interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed has promised to convene a national reconciliation conference as soon as possible.

In another development, Radio Mogadishu, monitored in Nairobi, said the interim government had formed a 1,000-member force to disarm residents of the capital

and curb looting. The government also said it would impose emergency laws in the capital soon, but set no exact date.

EC Delegation Grants Emergency Aid to Country

AB2203212491 Paris AFP in English 1838 GMT
22 Mar 91

[Text] Nairobi, March 22 (AFP)—The European Community (EC) is granting war-scarred Somalia about 12 million dollars in emergency aid, the European Commission delegate to Somalia, Donato Chiarini said here Friday. Mr. Chiarini, who left Somalia for neighbouring Kenya in January when rebels ousted military strongman Mohamed Siad Barre, said the EC was "just tackling a small part of Somalia's needs" as the situation in the east African nation was still insecure. "As soon as the situation stabilises, this emergency aid can be intensified and become the first step towards rehabilitation," he said. Mr. Chiarini said the 12 million dollars included aid that had already been implemented through non-governmental organisations such as the medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and further aid "still in the pipeline", including food aid.

Tanzania

Multiparty Commission Chairman Presents Schedule

EA2203134291 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service
in Swahili 1700 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Dar es Salaam—The president's commission on the establishment or nonestablishment of a multiparty system in the country will begin the first phase of touring districts and some villages as of 22 April. The regions to be toured in the first phase are Iringa, Mbeya, Tanga, and two regions of Pemba. Others are Mwanza, Shinyanga, Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Dodoma, and Singida.

The commission's chairman, Justice Francis Nyalali, said this when he met reporters in his office in Dar es Salaam. Comrade Nyalali said that the phase was expected to end in July, and the second phase would begin in September and end in October this year. The second phase will involve Ruvuma, Rukwa, Tabora, Kigoma, Kagera, Mara, Morogoro regions, and three regions of Zanzibar.

Justice Nyalali said that the commission would wind up its task in February next year and submit its report to the president in March. He said that during the commission's tour to the citizens, the commission would also meet prominent personalities such as the father of the nation, Mwalimu Nyerere, and others. Comrade Nyalali said that the commission would distribute questionnaires to the citizens who after answering them would be asked to send them directly to the secretary of the President's Commission on Changes, Box 63010, Dar es Salaam. He asked Radio Tanzania, Voice of Tanzania

and Zanzibar, and Zanzibar television to launch special programs on the commission to enable it to discuss important issues, in order to encourage the citizens.

Media Urged To Publicize Multiparty Opinions

EA2103152591 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service
in Swahili 1000 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Dodoma—News media organs have been reminded of the significance of publicizing the opinions of the majority of citizens on the debate on the multiparty or single party set-up in the country, instead of publicizing the views of a few. The secretary of the disciplinary commission of the party's national executive committee, Comrade Daudi Mwakawago, gave this advice today while opening the 40th meeting of the committee on educational programs by Radio Tanzania, which began today in Dodoma.

He said a new trend has emerged in the news media organs, by broadcasting the views expressed by a few on the debate for a single party or multiparty system in the country. He asked for all opinions, especially by the majority of the people, to be publicized by the media so that they reach the public.

He also urged producers of radio programs to make sure that the message they want to convey to the people is understood and reaches them through the medium of simple language. The four-day meeting has been organized by Radio Tanzania.

Outgoing Albanian Envoy Says Embassy To Close

EA2403095891 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service
in Swahili 1700 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Dar es Salaam—Tanzania has lauded Albania for its support for the liberation movements in Africa. Speaking at the dinner he hosted for the outgoing Albanian ambassador, the minister for foreign affairs and international relations, Comrade Ahmed Hasan Diria, said that Albania was one of the East European countries that had been giving material and moral support to the liberation fighters in the continent. Minister Diria expressed hope that owing to the joint efforts and determination of Tanzania and Albania, the two countries would liberate themselves economically. Comrade Diria assured the Albanian ambassador that various agreements signed between Tanzania and Albania would be implemented.

For his part, Mr. Mehdi Shaqiri, the Albanian ambassador, said that his country has decided to close down its embassy in Tanzania due to the bad economic situation currently facing his country. He emphasized, however, that the measure would not affect relations between Tanzania and Albania.

Uganda

Agreement Signed With Chinese on Paper Plant

EA2103160491 Kampala Domestic Service
in English 1700 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] A six-man Chinese trade delegation which has been in Uganda for one week has left for home after signing an agreement for the establishment of a manufacturing paper packaging factory in Uganda. The draft agreement was signed in Kampala yesterday by the leader of the delegation, Mr. (Jin Yugu) of the China (Huax) enterprises, and the vice chairman of the Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. (Felix William Matanda). Under the agreement, the China (Huax) will supply equipment and raw materials needed for the establishment of the paper packaging plant in Jinja. It will also provide technical personnel, technical information and know-how to the joint venture as well as in training skilled manpower from among the citizens of Uganda.

Creditors' Group Evaluates Progress, Commitments

EA2403101191 Kampala Domestic Service
in English 0400 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Uganda's creditors have indicated commitments of about \$850 million for the year 1991/1992. The amount includes \$350 million for quick disbursing assistance, which is said to be sufficient to underpin continued growth of Uganda's economy.

This was announced at the end of a meeting of the Consultative Group of Uganda held in Paris yesterday under the chairmanship of the director of the Eastern Africa Department of the World Bank, Mr. (Calesto Madavo). The Uganda delegation was led by the minister of finance, Dr. Crispus Kiyonga, and included the ministers of planning and economic development, Mr. Mayanja Nkangi; and of public service and cabinet affairs, Mr. Tom Rubale.

The meeting was attended by delegations representing Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Britain, the United States, the European Economic Community, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Development Program, the African Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Islamic Development

Bank, the Saudi Fund for Development, and United Nations Children's Fund. Observers were from Finland, Norway, and the Organisation of Economic Development. The group agreed to convene again in about one year's time.

The meeting reviewed the current economic situation and prospects for Uganda's economy, focusing primarily on the actions under way and plans to bring about the structural changes required for sustainable and equitable long-term growth. Delegates noted with satisfaction the progress in stabilizing the economy over the past three years and expressed strong support for the planned program of structural reforms. Reports from Paris say delegates commented favorably on the reduction of inflation and the liberalization in pricing and marketing that had been achieved, as well as on the increased international competitiveness brought about by adjustment of the exchange rate.

It was the consensus that improved security in the countryside together with the rapid rehabilitation of economic infrastructure and the growing sense of confidence amongst the populace had contributed to restoring the basis for broad-based economic recovery. Delegates further welcomed information provided on the progress made in the democratization process and the observance of human rights.

While recognising Uganda's substantial achievements since the last consultative group meeting, delegates agreed that much remains to be done as Uganda equally moves into a phase where a substantial program of structural reforms should be implemented to ensure sustained economic and social growth and development. Emphasis was given to further improving fiscal performance, particularly through strengthened tax administration as well as maintaining strict control over monetary policy. It was agreed that reprioritization of public spending was needed to achieve an appropriate balance among expenditures on security and (essential) economic and social services, notably power; transport infrastructure rehabilitation and maintenance, research, and extension services; and basic education and health. The government's plans for a major restructuring of the civil service were warmly welcomed.

Reports from Paris add that strong support was given to the emphasis on agriculture and the promotion of non-traditional exports. The importance of involving the private sector more in the development process by improving the incentives for private initiative was stressed as a key to achievement of the government's growth objectives.

Police, ANC Supporters Clash in Daveyton

Death Toll at 13

MB2503094091 Umtata Capital Radio
in English 0900 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] The death toll from yesterday's bloody clash between police and ANC [African National Congress] supporters in Daveyton on the East Rand has risen to 13.

Police say one of those wounded in the fighting has died in hospital. This brings to 12 the number of ANC supporters killed in the township. One policeman died in the clash.

East Rand police are still determining the exact number of those injured. The number stands at 29. The township is quiet but tense.

ANC Condemns Killings

MB2503124491 Umtata Capital Radio
in English 1100 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] The ANC [African National Congress] has lashed out at the police force, accusing them of murdering 12 Daveyton residents yesterday. Ruben Goldberg reports:

[Goldberg] The ANC has unequivocally condemned the shooting dead by police of 12 Daveyton residents. In a statement, the organization labeled the clash as savage and unprovoked murder. They ask: Is Sharpeville to be repeated again and again because the South African police are out of control?

The ANC has issued a number of demands following what they call the massacre. They want an independent commission of inquiry into violence around the country in general, and the Daveyton incident in particular. The ANC has also called for the police involved in the clash to be suspended.

The organization has also asked for an explanation as to how a nine-year-old could have been shot in the head hundreds of meters from the confrontation.

ANC's Sisulu Says 'Unacceptable'

MB2503133591 Umtata Capital Radio
in English 1300 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] The ANC [African National Congress] has condemned the police following yesterday's clash between ANC supporters and police in which 13 people, including a policeman, were killed.

The organization's internal leader, Walter Sisulu, says the police action in Daveyton is unacceptable:

[Begin Sisulu recording] I want to find out from anybody how is it possible that 200 people could be a threat to the police. And they've got [word indistinct] on the other hand. They are not a threat. Why was it not possible for the police to use methods such as various methods of stopping the violence? Why should they use live bullets? [end recording]

200,000 Sign ANC Petition for Constituent Assembly

MB2403150291 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES
in English 24 Mar 91 p 2

[Report by Sipho Ngcobo: "200,000 Sign ANC Petition"]

[Text] The ANC [African National Congress] has collected more than 200,000 signatures so far in its mass campaign for a constituent assembly and an interim government, the organisation said this week.

The campaign took the form of house-to-house canvassing, mass rallies and workshops in community halls and small village venues.

The ANC launched the campaign at more than 30 rallies in different parts of the country.

In an unusual political approach, the ANC brought together local chiefs and headmen in remote northern Transvaal villages to brief them on a constituent assembly, an interim government and the signature campaign.

In announcing the campaign launch, the ANC's northern Transvaal regional general secretary, Collins Chabane said:

"As part of the campaign to educate our people about the politics of the day and inform them about the democratic process of transition to a non-racial democratic South Africa based on the will of the people, and moreover to build a mass-based organisation, the ANC is launching the signature campaign in the northern Transvaal."

According to Mr. Chabane, the campaign will kick off today in various parts of the region.

A major regional rally, starting at 10 AM, will be held at Siyabisiwa, Kwandebele, where the ANC's treasurer-general, Titus Nkobi, will be first to sign after addressing the rally.

Also attending the Siyabisiwa rally will be the ANC's regional chairman, Joel Netshitenzhe, and his deputy, Aaron Motsoaledi.

Former Robben Island prisoner and Nelson Mandela's co-accused in the Rivonia trial, Elias Motsoaledi, will address a rally of chiefs and villagers at Maleboho, near Bochum.

Accompanying Mr. Motsoaledi will be members of the ANC's northern Transvaal Regional Executive Council.

At Jane Furse, Mr. Chabane will lead a workshop on a constituent assembly, an interim government and the signature campaign.

The workshop, to be held at the Jane Furse Community Hall, will involve all the ANC's structures in the eastern sub-region.

Attractions, Participants in Rand Show Previewed**New Attack Helicopter To Be Unveiled**

*MB2303193691 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network
in English 1800 GMT 23 Mar 91*

[Text] One of Armscor's [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] latest pieces of military hardware, the Rooivalk [Red Hawk] attack helicopter, is expected to be one of the main attractions at this year's Rand Show.

The Rooivalk will make its first public appearance at Nasrec [expansion unknown]. The helicopter operates in the 30 meter airspace above a battlefield, too low for enemy anti-aircraft fire. Flight tests have topped sixty hours, and according to the [South African] Defense Force, the results have been highly satisfactory.

The helicopter has a sophisticated infra-red tracking and sensor system developed in South Africa. It activates, and guides a wide variety of missiles and rockets, including a 30 mm gun and optional Kukri air-to-air missile. Nonguided 68-ML rockets can also be mounted on the Rooivalk, something that until recently was tried on jet fighters only. The aircraft is fitted with tank-killer laser guided Z-T3 air-to-ground missiles.

According to Armscor, the Rooivalk proves that South Africa has the know-how to develop, and produce advanced technological systems.

14 Hungarian Companies To Exhibit

*MB2403202091 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 1845 GMT 24 Mar 91*

[Text] The head of the Hungarian Trade Mission to South Africa, Dr. (George Pagochdi), says 14 Hungarian companies and organizations will exhibit at the Rand Show in Johannesburg beginning next weekend.

Dr. (Pagochdi) told the SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] in an interview that the Hungarian exhibits would place the emphasis on consumer goods but that banking and other business sectors would also be represented at the show.

Dr. (Pagochdi) invited South African businessmen to attend trade fairs in Hungary.

Soviet Delegation Discusses 'Total Onslaught'

*MB2003113191 Johannesburg THE STAR
in English 20 Mar 91 p 9*

[Unattributed report: "Total Onslaught 'A Fiction', Say Visiting Soviets"]

[Text] The total onslaught was a figment of the imagination. The Soviet Union does not want to interfere in South Africa's affairs.

And far from having been a failure, socialism followed by communism remains the answer to the world's problems.

These were some of the views expressed by members of a high-ranking visiting Soviet delegation at an IDASA [Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa]-sponsored seminar in Pretoria this week.

The three-man delegation, all members of the influential Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, gave their views on the total onslaught, internal Soviet politics and Soviet/South African relations—and became embroiled in a lively question/answer session with the large audience.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Vasilii Solodovnikov said while the Soviet Union always supported liberation movements throughout the world, the "total onslaught" against South Africa was fiction rather than fact.

"I can say honestly there was never any plan to take your country or your mineral resources. We helped the liberation movements in their fight against apartheid—and that was a just policy on our part.

"At first, our policy was criticised because of the Cold War—but later all Western countries and the United States adopted the same policy of supporting the liberation movement," Dr Solodovnikov added.

Another member of the delegation, Mr Slava Teteokin, astounded the audience by saying that there was "no question" that world socialism, followed by communism was inevitable.

"One cannot fight against the rules of history," Mr Teteokin said.

However, he was not prepared to pressure South Africans which economic system to adopt in the future.

"You must work out yourselves what form the transition will take. Socialism has not failed—only a particular model of socialism—the Soviet model—has failed."

Mr Teteokin blamed the failure of Soviet socialism on the gradual erosion of political democracy in the Soviet Union, which denied its people the right to question the economic policies of the government.

The other speaker, Dr Salamandar Kalandarov, said Soviet sanctions against South Africa would go as soon as the United Nations decided to lift sanctions.

Charges Withdrawn Against Vula Trialists

*MB2503124891 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 1100 GMT 25 Mar 91*

[Text] Charges of terrorism and conspiracy to overthrow the government were withdrawn against the nine accused in the so-called Vula trial in the Durban regional court this morning.

The charges were withdrawn after the state president granted the accused indemnity last week.

Trialists Say 'Not Enough'

*MB2503171091 Umtata Capital Radio
in English 1500 GMT 25 Mar 91*

[Text] The operation Vula ex-trialists say the dropping of charges is not enough. They were speaking in Durban today after the state dropped all charges of terrorism and conspiracy to overthrow the government. Carmel Rickard has more:

[Rickard] The withdrawal of charges against the operation Vula accused was a mere formality after the government granted them indemnity on Friday [22 March]. But at a news conference after the legalities were over, the former Vula accused made it clear they were still dissatisfied about a number of issues.

They want indemnity for their coconspirators, that is, people named by the state in the charge sheet but who were not accused and who have not been granted indemnity by the state.

They also want all the property of the ANC [African National Congress] and their personal property confiscated by the state at the time they were arrested to be returned.

Finally, the state must acknowledge the police detained two Vula colleagues, (Mbuso Tshabalala) and (Charles Ndaba), who disappeared last July and have not been heard of since. The police deny they arrested these two.

Further Reaction to White Paper on Land Reform

CP Leader's on Resistance, Land

*MB2103200091 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 1845 GMT 21 Mar 91*

[Text] The leader of the Conservative Party [CP], Dr. Andries Treurnicht, says the government will ultimately determine what form of resistance will be demonstrated against it if it steals the white's land through statutes.

Dr. Treurnicht said during the debate on the appropriations bill in the House of Assembly, that it was not a crime to consider resistance if a nation's rights and freedom were assailed. He emphasized that violence could only be an option in absolutely exceptional cases, and that this was not on the CP's agenda. Dr. Treurnicht warned that the government must not force people into a situation where they would have to defend themselves against a government that wanted to take away their land and freedom.

The CP will align itself with agricultural, cultural and other organizations outside the political arena that took a stand against the government. It would help these organizations to choose methods of resistance that suited them.

Dr. Treurnicht said that as a political party the CP would decide itself what it would do, but if the law were contravened the government would have to arrest them, and the ministers of law and order, and of justice, could also arrest him.

Transvaal Civic Group Rejects Paper

*MB2203080291 Johannesburg THE STAR
in English 21 Mar 91 p 3*

[Unattributed report: "Govt Ignoring Real Land Issues, Conference Told"]

[Text] The Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (CAST) and Operation Masakhane for the Homeless (Ohmle) vowed at a joint press conference yesterday to continue with their occupation of vacant land because the Government's White Paper did not address the real land issues.

The conference, called to express their rejection of the White Paper, was held in Johannesburg.

Ohmle general secretary Basheer Lorgat said the Government saw the White Paper as a major leap forward towards a new South Africa.

But, he said, the majority of the people were not excited about it.

They reasserted that genuine change to benefit the majority of South Africans could be achieved only by the people, he said.

"We believe our people and not the Government are best able to redistribute land. The people must do this by a well coordinated campaign to occupy vacant land," he said.

Mr Lorgat said it was the responsibility of the Government to service and facilitate people on that land.

"We will not wait for the Government to move at its own pace," he said.

CAST general secretary Sam Ntuli said the White Paper on Land Reform had an eerie connotation, especially as it sought to perpetrate the impoverishment of black people.

He said no additional land had been allocated to blacks and that the millions dispossessed by apartheid were not being compensated.

Further Reaction to, Comment on Annual Budget

Inkatha on 'White Man's Budget'

*MB2103144491 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1324 GMT 21 Mar 91*

[SAPA PR Wire Service Issued by: Office of the President of the Inkatha Freedom Party: "Third Session of the Fifth kwaZulu Legislative Assembly; Statement on S.A. [South African] Budget by the Hon. The chief minister, Ulundi 21st March 1991"]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—When I think of South African budgets, images of Africa and Third World countries flash through my mind—destroyed economies, hungry hordes, decaying cities and rot in the productive capacity of countries. I then begin my thinking with a sense

of gratitude that South Africa has an economy resting on a sound infrastructure with management skills, technical know-how and capital markets in the wings waiting for politics to put things right so that we can move to a high level and sustained economic growth pattern.

I judge this year's budget in terms of its contribution to the political climate of the country, as well as its contribution to economic recovery. Politics and economics are two sides of a single coin and budgets must be considered from both sides.

Firstly, as a black leader I must still say that this year's budget is a white man's budget. It represents the best possible management of white vested interests in the circumstances in which Mr. F.W. de Klerk's leadership towards radical change creates. It is a budget of a society not yet whole and I must judge the budget simply in terms of whether or not the budget is going to contribute towards making South Africa a wholesome, normalised society.

There has, of course, been no consultation with blacks about whether the budget amounts to managing the vested interests of whites for the development of South Africa. Is this budget the best that there is as an alternative to harsh measures such as enforced redistribution of wealth and land and the nationalisation of major industries? I believe that whites will have to be prepared to do more than this budget expects them to do if we as a country are going to avoid mass spreading poverty becoming the mortal enemy of democracy.

Is it the best alternative to the failed command economies in other parts of the world? Just because South Africa does not have a failing command economy, it does not mean that just anything is better than the failures we have been witnessing in communist and socialist countries.

I welcome one of the central intentions of the budget which is to direct resources to increase the black man's ability to enter the market economy and to bring about improvements in his own circumstances and the circumstances of his family. The increased expenditure on education is to be welcomed.

I welcome the step to close the disparity between pensions for blacks and whites. I also welcome aspects of budget which will in effect increase personal tax by 28 percent. That 28 percent will actually be affordable from the population from which it comes and it will benefit the population to which the increased tax money goes.

Adjustments will have to be made and if adjustments continue to be made by employing market forces, then there is some chance of success. Again, I plead with whites to look Africa [as received] and to be grateful that we are not headed towards the economic devastation which is so easily seen in Africa.

I also welcome the R[and]200 million which will be allocated to black housing. The housing crisis in South Africa is not only a personal crisis and a family crisis for the people concerned, it is a national crisis. There can be

no real stability until the housing problem is at least reduced to manageable proportions.

Looked at objectively my real concern with the budget as it has been drawn up is whether or not it is going far enough, quickly enough to deal with the black backlog problem. More than half of all black South Africans are 15 years old and younger and I would say that this budget is not an adequate preparation for the huge population bulge that is going to hit the market place and swell educational, health and welfare backlogs.

Poverty is a national crisis and it can only be solved when the whole nation of black and white South Africans are brought together to do so in common purpose. From this point of view, the budget at best can be seen as an interim budget at an interim point in time—a juggling budget in which a bit is taken from here and given to there. We need the consultations necessary to join black and white in a national endeavour to grapple with both the economics and the politics of inequality.

A final comment about this budget must surely be that it is attempting to see how long a piece of elastic is—how far can it stretch. What will a 12 percent VAT [Value Added Tax] imposition actually produce in cash? I call for review mechanisms because it would be wrong to increase personal tax, to increase the costs of health care, to leave people to grapple with a minimum of 12 percent inflation and then over-collect billions because you miscalculated on 12 percent VAT income.

It would also be wrong to have grossly over-estimated what will come from a 12 percent VAT imposition and leave the best that there is in the budget unattainable because there is just not enough money to achieve the results aimed at. We need consultation on this issue.

Homelands' Ministers Criticize

*MB2103163491 Umtata Capital Radio
in English 1400 GMT 21 Mar 91*

[Text] Ministers of a number of self-governing homelands added their voices to the discontent expressed at the budget tabled in Parliament yesterday. Finance Ministers of the self-governing states say their allocations fell well below their needs.

KwaZulu Finance Minister Dennis Madide has complained about the allocation of [Rand]5 billion to the homelands out of a total budget of 85 billion and called for closer consultation with the homelands in drawing up the budget.

His feelings were echoed by Lebowa's Finance Minister Chief (Magala) who said the government was being one-sided in failing to discuss the homelands' financial needs.

Finance Minister Comments

*MB2103205691 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network
in English 1800 GMT 21 Mar 91*

[Text] Finance Minister, Barrend du Plessis, says yesterday's budget is linked to the state president's vision of a

just society in South Africa. In an interview with David Bamber, Mr. du Plessis said achieving this had been extremely difficult in the economic field because of the disparity in income and assets of South Africans.

[Begin video recording] [Du Plessis] We said to ourselves, this budget must make a contribution toward: A, as far as the budget gives to people, like for instance, assistances to the aged. We must make progress toward closing the gap so as to eliminate discrimination on that side. Secondly, we must invest very heavily in training and education, and health, in order to help a person to be productive, in order to help people to acquire knowledge, skills with which they can then work, and which they can employ and then, in that way, fulfill the second aspect of equity, namely to increase their own ability to earn and approach closer the general income levels, and that's what we mean when we say that—I think the main aim is to make progress toward a just society by making a step forward in terms of equity.

[Bamber] Isn't that just another way of redistribution of wealth?

[Du Plessis] A budget is a redistributing instrument and it always has been in all civilized countries. But, the redistribution of wealth, and we must be rather technical now, is not what this budget is, because we regard wealth as assets. Yes, it is a redistribution of income. Another point which needs to be underlined, is the fact that a lot of accent is placed on land ownership, stand ownership, home ownership. Again, that maybe approaches closer the idea of redistribution of wealth, so that a person can have a piece of land, build his own home, improve it along the way, and thereby accumulate wealth and security against which he can borrow money and so on.

[Bamber] Perhaps there will also be some disappointment in that you won't be able to narrow the gap in pensions between the different sectors of the population far greater than you did. Was that not possible at all?

[Du Plessis] No it wasn't. Five-hundred-and-five million rand in addition to what we had already given in the first round of the budget was as much as we could do. I'm afraid, however much we would have liked to do it, it is impossible. And, in fact there's a very, very real condition attached to that. And this is that the sanctions, the pro-sanctions people inside South Africa, and outside South Africa, and those perpetrating violence, and strikes, and unproductive salary and wage increases, all of those people who reduce business confidence must take the responsibility. If they don't stop that nonsense now, if they don't stop it, if they don't stop their sanctions drive, then we will not be able to grow this economy, and then we will not be able to close the gap. So, what we did is in accesss really of our ability, and that's why we said in the budget speech, it's an act of faith. [end recording]

Finance Minister Under Fire

MB2203144891 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY
in English 22 Mar 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by Lesley Lambert: "Barend Comes Under Fire From Reserve Bank"]

[Text] Cape Town—Deputy Reserve Bank Governor Jaap Mijer has criticised Finance Minister Barend du Plessis for not addressing structural economic deficiencies in his Budget.

Mijer, a participant in yesterday's Old Mutual Budget Forum, said the Reserve Bank was concerned at the lack of attention paid in the Budget to certain structural deficiencies identified by former Administration and Economic Coordination Minister Wim de Villiers.

"Too many things that Dr de Villiers regarded as structurally undesirable have not been addressed. Some of the things the Minister should have dealt with have been allowed to drop," he said.

Areas which had not been adequately addressed included government's share of the economy, the overall tax burden, the division between direct and indirect tax, steps to be taken to encourage savings, and whether or not the country should meet the IMF's limit on the deficit before borrowings of 3 percent of GDP [Gross Domestic Product], Mijer said.

The Reserve Bank would also have liked to have seen more reconciliation between social spending and supply-side economic growth, he said.

And Reserve Bank Governor Chris Stals said in Cape Town last night the estimated deficit before borrowing of R[and]10.1bn [billion] announced in this week's Budget "leaves a central banker slightly uncomfortable".

Our Cape Town correspondent reports he said the surplus after borrowing of R2bn for the 1990/91 fiscal year "can if not carefully managed make inopportune additions to money market liquidity and the money supply."

Stressing that the Reserve Bank would protect the value of the rand, and the foreign reserves, by not relaxing its monetary policy, Stals said this was the best contribution it could make towards the ultimate objectives of overall economic policy.

Stals was speaking at a banquet to announce the winner of the Old Mutual-Nedbank Budget speech competition.

He said the deficit before borrowing was not unduly large.

Explaining why the deficit before borrowing left "a central banker slightly uncomfortable", Stals said: "Firstly, it is showing an ominous tendency to grow and has increased from 1.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1989/90 to 2.7 percent in 1990/91 and 3.4 percent in 1991/92. "This tendency should not be allowed to continue.

"Secondly, it exceeds the total amount of capital expenditure by government, estimated to be only 1.8 percent of GDP. This means that there will again be some negative saving by government in the next fiscal year.

"Government will be absorbing some of the scarce savings of the country to finance current expenditures."

Praising Du Plessis for not giving way to pressures to allow the money supply to grow, Stals said this would have led only to short-term benefits.

Reserve Bank Officials' Criticism

MB2403132891 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES
in English ("Business Times" section) 24 Mar 91 p 1

[Report by David Carte: "Stals Challenges Budget Spending"]

[Text] Reserve Bank Governor Chris Stals is "not that happy" with the Budget. He told BUSINESS TIMES: "I am uncomfortable with it because it tries to meet huge demands for social services at the expense of real growth."

Dr Stals would have preferred a "Budget that does more to stimulate industrial development and employment".

Dr Stals's criticism is a major departure from precedent. Past governors have slavishly endorsed Budgets. Dr Stals says the Reserve Bank was consulted only about the basic principles of the Budget.

He confirms that his Reserve Bank administration reserves the right to differ from the fiscal authorities.

"Our independence is in line with the new more open style of government."

Dr Stals says the 13.7 percent proposed rise in State spending will lead to an increased share of government in the economy. Social spending will add little to production capacity while it will increase consumer demand.

He also believes that the deficit before borrowing is growing ominously.

"It's 3.4 percent of gross domestic product—up from 1.6 percent of GDP in 1989 and 2.7 percent in 1990. It also exceeds Government capital spending, estimated at 1.8 percent of GDP. This means the Government is using scarce savings for consumption.

Dr Stals says it is hard to assess how stimulatory or deflationary the Budget is because Finance Minister Barend du Plessis is giving away so much to some and taking away so much from others.

In addition, it is difficult to know how much value added tax (VAT) will yield.

"I have sympathy for the Department of Finance. They face astronomical demands for social services. At the same time they have limited resources."

Dr Stals believes more could be done to slim down the public service. The Reserve Bank, he says, has done its duty by running down numbers and closing its Martizburg branch.

Dr Stals's deputy, Jaap Meijer, was even more outspoken in his criticism of the Budget at a seminar in Cape Town organised by Old Mutual and Nedbank.

Dr Meijer said: "Social spending should help, not hinder, growth. The State must help those who cannot help themselves but it can do more to encourage those who can help themselves.

"It's all very well to spend 6 percent of GDP on education, but what about the mismatch between the qualifications people are getting and what the economy needs?"

Dr Meijer said Jan Lombard of the Reserve Bank and the late Administration Minister Wim de Villiers recommended supply-side actions aimed at boosting output, "too few of which were mentioned by the minister".

Dr Meijer thinks that Government share in the economy is still too large, as is the deficit before borrowing.

Dr Stals does not believe the Budget will put upward pressure on interest rates, but he is adamant there will be no more cuts until the inflation rate falls further.

"The Minister was very bold in saying he would get inflation down to 12 percent by December 1991. I suppose he is counting on the removal of the cascading effect of general sales tax [GST] for some of the decline.

"People don't realise how much paying tax on tax can do to reduce prices. We estimate that the tax in most completed items at consumer level amounts to 27 percent not just the 13 percent GST that people think they are paying.

"Value added tax will avert this and provided there is enough competition between manufacturers, prices should come down. I think newspapers and consumer bodies should watch to see that the consumer does get the benefit."

Dr Stals is fairly hopeful about the economic outlook in general.

Dr Stals reiterated the Reserve Bank's intention to hold money-supply growth in the range of 8 percent to 12 percent, to restrict bank credit extension, to maintain positive real interest rates, to hold the rand exchange rate stable and to increase the reserves further.

He said the Reserve Bank would stick to its guns no matter how unpopular it became.

"The recent relaxation in monetary policy together with the slightly expansionary fiscal policy now announced call for caution in any further decision on additional stimulatory measures.

"The present rate of inflation is just too high, the balance of payments situation too uncertain to take any more 'bold' steps. The space for manoeuvring has for the time being been taken up.

"Fiscal policy has now moved the economy to the edge of the cliff. It is the responsibility of monetary policy to give its support and prevent the economy from falling into the dangerous abyss of escalating inflation, permanent stagnation and ultimately unavoidably more poverty for all."

Imposition of New VAT Discussed, Commented

Watchdog Group Planned

MB2203143891 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY
in English 22 Mar 91 p 1

[Report by Kevin Davie: "Govt Plans To Set Up VAT Watchdog Group"]

[Text] Government is to set up a special VAT [Value Added Tax] watchdog body to ensure that manufacturers, who get R[and]7bn [billion] annually in input credits on capital and intermediate goods, pass the benefits on to the consumer.

The credits, which were announced on Wednesday by Finance Minister Barend du Plessis, come into effect with VAT on September 30 and will provide manufacturers with tax relief estimated at R7bn annually. The IMF team which investigated VAT for government estimated that these credits could result in price reductions of up to 8 percent. It persuaded government to implement the credits immediately as a phasing-in period would be difficult to administer.

"The difference is so material it will have to be passed on," former Vatcom [VAT Commission] secretary Peter Franck said yesterday. "Between R500m [million] and R600m will be given every month in credits."

Franck said the IMF team had recommended VAT be set at 13.3 percent to be able to recoup the same amount of revenue as GST [General Sales Tax]. Government opted for 12 percent in the hope that the about R1bn shortfall would be recouped from the reduction in evasions, which the IMF team put at 60 percent.

Consumers will pay annually about R2.2bn more on foods as VAT only zero rates mielie meal and brown bread. It has been calculated that a 10 percent VAT rate which included food would cost a middle-income family an additional R500 a year.

The extra cost to the consumer will be partly cushioned by setting the rate at 12 percent, as the one percentage point difference offers a cushion of about R1.5bn.

—In Cape Town yesterday Finance Director-General Gerhard Croeser said he would be surprised if an 8 percent saving could be achieved as a result of the decision to allow the tax credits.

He said he would be happy if price reductions of half this amount resulted.

Croeser said there was a need for agencies to monitor whether the input credits were passed onto the consumer.

ANC, Azapo on 'Highway Robbery'

MB2203173491 Johannesburg SOWETAN
in English 22 Mar 91 p 13

[SOWETAN Correspondents Report: "Barend's Budget Seen as Robbery of the Poor"]

[Text] Azapo [Azanian People's Organization], the ANC [African National Congress], and Cosatu [Congress of South African Trade Unions] slammed the Government's Budget this week, with Azapo saying the decision to impose new VAT [Value Added Tax] on basic foods except mealie-meal and bread was "highway robbery".

Azapo deputy president Dr Nchaupe Mokoape said Finance Minister Barend du Plessis's budget was far from impressive, and he would not even describe it as "a step in the right direction".

In a statement prepared long before the budget was announced, Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) Publicity Secretary Barney Desai said the PAC did not recognise the Government and therefore did not expect anything positive from it.

In its initial response last night, the ANC—which said it would "provide a more detailed response later"—said the fundamental flaw of the budget was that it was formulated and introduced in a context where there were no "democratic institutional mechanisms to ensure an equitable allocation of resources".

This was compounded by the apparent lack of an overarching national development strategy.

The ANC said social spending on housing, special aid programmes and pensions was "hopelessly inadequate", arguing the Government should have brought immediate parity in pensions to alleviate poverty.

Also criticised by the ANC were the lack of a special provision for electrification and land reform, and the fact that the effectiveness of the sum provided for education would be hampered by the multiplicity of education departments.

The ANC slammed the 12 percent rate at which the new VAT tax will be introduced, saying it was "far higher than all reasonable expectations". With limited items exempted from the VAT, the new tax would cause extreme hardship for the poor and the special aid programmes for the poor proposed in the Budget would be insignificant.

"This inadequate social expenditure was not as a result of insufficient overall revenue but rather reflects ongoing apartheid budget priorities. Defence expenditure, for example, remains excessive. Most countries not in a state

of war spend proportionately half of what was allocated in this year's budget," said the ANC.

Azapo's Dr Mokoape said the poor did not need handouts which would constitute an insult to their dignity.

"The poor do not need food aid," Dr Mokoape said, "but they need land released to them so that they can work upon it to feed themselves. Giving them handouts of very little significance and it will insult their dignity".

The Azapo leader said "it was absolutely ridiculous" that blacks, whose contribution to the country's wealth was enormous, had been given small pensions all along. His anger was far from being assuaged by the 20 percent readjustment.

"The imposition of the VAT tax on all basic foods is pure highway robbery. We have always said that no sales tax should be levied on all foods, books and medicines. These things are very basic in life," Dr Mokoape said.

In his response yesterday, the PAC's Barney Desai said: "We have no input to make as to what to expect from the regime's budget. Our position is crystal clear: We do not recognise them as a legitimate authority and do not expect, nor are grateful for, any largesse from that source through a budget.

"We are for government by Africans for Africans and are in the process of installing a minister of finance who is democratically elected by the people of this country. European paternalism is on the way out and we say the sooner the better."

Cosatu also expected disappointment at yesterday's budget speech and described it as yet again protecting the white minority interest.

In a statement, Cosatu said the only beneficiaries were the "big business and apartheid bureaucrats."

For the disadvantaged majority Minister du Plessis's speech was a "rubicon".

There was nothing which indicated that the gross racial discrimination which had characterised previous Budgets had been removed, nor was there no movement towards removing duplication of expenditure on apartheid structures and the apartheid bureaucracy remained fat and well fed, the statement added [sentence as published].

"The budget failed to create parity in social spending between black and white. The exact figures have still to be revealed, but there is little doubt that massive racial disparities still exist in social spending.

"The minister seems quite proud of the fact that discrimination between black and white pensioners is only 20 percent less than it was. Apart from the obvious racism in this approach, how does he justify this continued discrimination when his own commission recommended racial parity in pensions?

"The promised massive 'social upliftment programme' didn't materialise. Far from social spending dramatically increasing as a proportion of the Budget, it in fact remains at the same percentage as last year.

"The apartheid security forces continue to drain the resources of the country. What has been taken away from SADF [South African Defense Force] has simply been given to the SAP [South African Police].

"The budget is yet another apartheid budget. It directs state resources, which belong to all South Africans, into the hands of the minority, it makes the rich, richer, and discriminates against blacks in general."

Black Leaders Oppose Policy

MB2303123291 Johannesburg SATURDAY STAR
in English 23 Mar 91 p 1

[Report by Pat Devereaux, Jovial Rantao, Sue Olswang, and SAPA: "VAT on Rates: Cities Revolt"]

[Text] South Africa's major cities have banded together to fight what some city councillors believe could become President de Klerk's version of a poll tax nightmare: the imposition of Value Added Tax [VAT] on municipal rates and services.

The city treasurer of Cape Town, Mr Eddie Landsberg, said delegations from the big cities had met on Tuesday [19 March] and had prepared a memorandum to submit to Vatcom, the government commission on VAT.

Mr Landsberg said the public would regard VAT on rates and services as a tax on tax.

He suggested local authorities ask the Government for a kickback in exchange for collecting the tax.

The kick-back could be phased out over three years and could be used to soften VAT's impact on rates of about 9 percent. VAT and the normal annual increases could push rates up by more than 20 percent this year.

One delegate at the United Municipal Executive (UME) conference held in Cape Town said VAT on rates, especially in black areas, would be a recipe for revolution.

Paul Asherson, transport and utilities chairman on the Johannesburg City Council's management committee, last night said he was glad there had been a decision to fight VAT on rates and services.

"Ultimately, when rates go up by 12 percent, we (local government) will be blamed. I absolutely oppose the idea of a tax on tax."

Mr Asherson endorsed the reported attitude of the Durban City Council, which has called for a meeting of all residents.

Mr Asherson said it was not out of the question for "this to become Mr de Klerk's poll tax nightmare".

The British poll tax, a cornerstone of Margaret Thatcher's socio-economic policy, was levied against every person over the age of 18. It replaced a property tax and was designed to help fund local government spending. The Conservative government this week said it would replace the hated tax.

Mr Asherson said city councils must talk to the Government in addition to mobilising residents, perhaps in the form of petitions.

"I would like to take one million signatures to Barend (Finance Minister Barend du Plessis) and Mr de Klerk. They must be made to know how unpopular this will be."

Bruce Stewart, chairman of the Sandton City Council's management committee, said his council had made representations to the Transvaal Municipal Association (TMA) and the Municipal Institute of Treasurers and Accountants not to institute VAT on rates and taxes.

He said: "We will continue to oppose it, and will probably follow the lead taken by other cities by grouping together."

"My personal view would be that petitions won't serve much purpose, except to indicate a massive viewpoint. I think negotiation on a professional level by an organised body would be more effective. A massive public uprising in conjunction with representation by councils would be a good two-pronged approach."

The mayor of Duduza, Mr Kebane Moloi, warned that VAT on rates in the black areas could spark campaigns similar to the rent boycotts, and that black local authorities could not afford to apply the tax.

"We need to increase our income to improve our areas and cannot afford to collect the Government's taxes for it. We would have to face the wrath of citizens if we increased rates or rents by more than R[and]5."

Dr Nthato Motlana, a Soweto community leader, echoed the warning that increased rates might lead to another rent and services boycott.

He said the Government should consider exempting the poor and the unemployed from paying VAT on municipal rates and services.

"They simply will not afford it," he said.

Deputy Minister Clarifies Issue

MB2403201691 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 1845 GMT 24 Mar 91

[Text] The deputy minister of finance, Dr. Org Marais, says it's incorrect to regard Value Added Tax [VAT] on municipal rates and services as a tax on tax.

He said it was also incorrect, as was being alleged, that VAT would increase the consumers' tax burden. Dr. Marais said in an interview that, in fact, municipalities would have to pass on the cost benefits of VAT to the

consumer. He pointed out that the fees charged by municipalities included a four percent GST [General Sales Tax].

Dr. Marais said fears that property rates would increase by the full 12 percent VAT were unjustified.

26 Mar Press Review of Current Issues, Problems MB2603120991

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Call for Ban on "Traditional" Weapons—"The carrying of 'cultural' or 'traditional' weapons is integral to the horrifying township violence," says Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 26 March in a page 32 editorial. The weekend violence at Daveyton where at least 13 people were killed underlines the "folly of sanctioning the display of these weapons at public gatherings." "With Daveyton yet another question arises: How essential was it for the police to break up the 'illegal' gathering, particularly since the ban on open-air meetings is about to be lifted? In any case a palpable truth should be recognised. The phrase 'cultural' or 'traditional' weapons is a misnomer; they are lethal weapons forged for killing. It is time they were banned, for everyone."

BUSINESS DAY

ANC, Inkatha Must Face 'Responsibilities' for Violence—Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 26 March in a page 8 editorial declares the "armed struggle has not been suspended." "The struggle is between rival bands supporting the ANC [African National Congress] on the one hand and Inkatha on the other. The killing fields are not confined to the Reef or to Natal, and the blame cannot be laid on faceless individuals, a third force or the police. The authorities, however, will increasingly have to step in unless Inkatha and the ANC face up to their responsibilities instead of wringing their hands, deploring violence or accusing someone else." BUSINESS DAY also believes Nelson Mandela and Mangosuthu Buthelezi "have not acted unambiguously to stop their supporters seeing the other side as a militant enemy, a threat or a target. Until they do, the killings will continue."

CITY PRESS

Soldiers Not Above Law—The findings of Judge Eddie Stafford at the inquest into the death of 42 people in Sebokeng in 1990, "cast serious doubts on the integrity of the SADF [South African Defense Force]," states a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English on 24 March. Judge Stafford found that several SADF members had "committed perjury and had tried to mislead the court on purpose." "The judge launched a scathing attack on the soldiers, describing them as semi-literate and non-professional, and who, despite repeated warnings from the police to not fire live ammunition, did so. This means that Defence Minister Magnus Malan must take a portion of blame for the behaviour of his men." CITY PRESS is glad the inquest took place, and it should be a warning "to those soldiers who think their actions will never be questioned because they are above the law."

Angola

Ninth People's Assembly Ordinary Session Detailed

1991 National Plan Viewed

*MB2103155491 Luanda Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1900 GMT 20 Mar 91*

[Text] The 1991 National Plan projects an economic growth rate of about 4 percent. This was revealed by ANGOP [ANGOLAN PRESS AGENCY] citing a source who asked to remain anonymous.

According to the source, this will only be possible by a 200 percent devaluation of the new kwanza and the introduction of other economic measures, including cuts in public expenditures of up to 15 percent of the gross domestic product. It will equally require reducing imports, increasing and diversifying exports, as well as trebling the purchase of raw material for the industry.

Another way to attain the 4 percent growth rate is to attract foreign investment. However, according to another unnamed source cited by ANGOP, there is little progress in this direction. The government has so far failed to fully satisfy creditors who are demanding a devaluation of the new kwanza up to 400 percent and full deregulation of the economy thus permitting the complete elimination of government subsidies on various basic commodities.

1991 Budget, Foreign Debt Discussed

*MB2203074391 Luanda Domestic Service
in Portuguese 0600 GMT 22 Mar 91*

[Text] An authorized source has disclosed that the revenue forecast in the 1991 State General Budget amounts to some \$5 billion. Of this amount, \$1 billion will come from crude oil sales. The source added that in real terms the sales are linked to the fluctuation of the prices of crude in the world market.

These details were given at debates held during the Ninth People's Assembly ordinary session which began in Luanda on 20 March. Other themes scheduled to be discussed at the session includes the State General Budget, and amendments to the National Plan.

It will be recalled that the guidelines for the foreign exchange budget call for restraint in the importation of consumer goods, an increase in the purchase of products for national manufacturers, and priority in the investment sector.

The deputies to the People's Assembly have also discussed problems relating to the payment of arrears of Angola's foreign debt. According to banking sources, the foreign debt has been estimated at \$1 billion.

\$20 Million for Education Announced

*MB2403201491 Luanda Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1900 GMT 24 Mar 91*

[Text] The Ninth Session of the People's Assembly has already discussed and approved the state general budget. Education Minister Antonio Neto has disclosed that the budget includes \$20 million for the educational sector this year.

Regarding private tuition in this country, the education minister told the People's Assembly that the incidental draft law is under discussion and will apply to every educational level. He noted that quality will be demanded of private tutors.

Draft Revised Constitution Debated

*MB2503083791 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0600 GMT 25 Mar 91*

[Text] The People's Assembly Ninth Ordinary Session will resume its proceedings in two hours. The deputies will continue debating the draft revised constitution and vote on its final version tomorrow.

Last Saturday [23 March] the deputies introduced some changes by voting in favor of a single person holding the posts of president of the Republic and president of the People's Assembly, and separating the posts of provincial governor and president of the Provincial People's Assembly.

The deputies also voted in favor of the independence of courts and judges, thus signaling the establishment of a state based on the rule of law.

Today's discussions are expected to center on the law guiding political parties. The law states that for a political party to be established in Angola, it must obtain at least 3,000 signatures of which at least 150 must come from each province.

Nationality, Association Laws Passed

*MB2503194591 Luanda Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1900 GMT 25 Mar 91*

[Text] The ninth session of the People's Assembly approved two important laws this afternoon: the Law on Nationality, whose discussion began this morning, and the Law on Associations.

The Law on Nationality was approved with a few amendments, notably the withdrawal of Article 9, a much-contested article which dealt with original nationality and [word indistinct] the Law on Nationality debate focused on agreements concerning the concepts of original nationality, acquired nationality, and the differences between the two. The deputies expressed different opinions about this issue. The article that imposes certain restrictions on the exercise of certain high-level duties by citizens of acquired nationality received much support.

Dual nationality is not being considered under the terms of this law. However, Angolan citizens abroad can regain Angolan nationality upon returning to the country and (?presenting) Angolan documents. The Law on Nationality was the subject of much discussion both in the morning and in the afternoon.

Only one hour was needed for the Law on Associations to be approved, but there were also heated discussions, principally because of possible contradictions between that law and the Law on Political Parties, which is also on the agenda of this People's Assembly session. The session has already gone into recess and is scheduled to resume tomorrow morning.

'Rule of Law' Legislation Approved

*MB2503195191 Gaborone Domestic Service
in English 1610 GMT 25 Mar 91*

[Text] The ninth session of the Angolan People's Assembly has approved legislation introducing the rule of law in the country. Officials say that from now on the courts will be independent of the political system.

The session also approved a law permitting the head of state to be president of the People's Assembly.

Still under discussion is the law on the formation of political parties and the implementation of a multiparty democracy.

Sao Tome Asks FAPLA Troops To Remain

*MB2503201491 Luanda Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1900 GMT 25 Mar 91*

[Text] The FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] troops stationed in Sao Tome and Principe were scheduled to begin leaving that country today. Quoting an authorized source in the Defense Ministry, ANGOP reports that the departure of those forces has been postponed for technical reasons and at the request of the Sao Tomean authorities.

The FAPLA forces have been in Sao Tome and Principe since 1977 to help guarantee its territorial integrity. It should be noted that the two governments discussed this issue after the opposition had defeated the MLSTP [Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe] at the polls. The MLSTP governed Sao Tome and Principe for 15 years.

UNITA Congratulates Namibians on Independence

*MB2203055491 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance
of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and
Central Africa 0500 GMT 22 Mar 91*

[Communique issued by UNITA's [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] Political Commission in Jamba on 21 March]

[Text] UNITA has just held its seventh ordinary congress. It marked the beginning of a new era of peace, national reconciliation, and multiparty democracy in Angola.

UNITA wishes to congratulate the people and Government of the Republic of Namibia on the occasion of their first anniversary as a free, independent, and democratic nation. The independence of the Republic of Namibia has showed Africa and the world at large that free, democratic, multiparty, and internationally supervised elections are possible in southern Africa in the very near future.

The Angolan people and UNITA wish to establish friendly cooperation relations between our two neighboring and sister countries. We are bound by the same principles of African dignity, social well-being, and political and economic progress for our respective peoples. Accordingly, UNITA's Political Commission sincerely congratulates the youngest African nation, its people, and government.

[Issued] Jamba, 21 March 1991, The Political Commission

UNITA Reacts to Dos Santos' Parliament Speech

*MB2203104191 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance
of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and
Central Africa 0500 GMT 22 Mar 91*

[Text] Political observers with the party's secretariat here in Jamba, yesterday accused Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, of having misunderstood the statements made by Dr. Savimbi, UNITA's [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] president and supreme FALA [Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] commander, during the opening session of the seventh ordinary congress. Dr. Savimbi had said that there was no reason to proceed with the war in Angola, and that it was over in the hearts and minds of the people.

Reacting to the boasts made by the MPLA-PT [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party] chairman, the observers vigorously refuted his accusations that Dr. Savimbi had ordered attacks against civilian targets. These accusations are aimed at hiding the warmongering and bloodthirsty actions against the Angolan people, which are the hallmark of the MPLA-PT. The observers reiterated that UNITA is not involved in any offensive against or abduction of civilians.

Speaking to Vorgan [Voice of the Resistance of the Black Cockerel] yesterday, the observers strongly reacted to the proposed election timetable. They said that Jose Eduardo dos Santos' proposal that elections should be held 36 months after the signing of the cease-fire is unacceptable and cannot be fulfilled.

It should be pointed out that senior officials in the Bush Administration believe that in order to keep peace and uphold a cease-fire, there should not be a long time separating the cease-fire from the elections.

Luanda's plans for this period were strongly rejected by UNITA's Seventh Congress, which recommended that elections should be held between nine and 12 months after the signing of a cease-fire accord.

The observers added that Eduardo dos Santos is not in a position to teach UNITA lessons, whatever the circumstances.

Botswana

President Congratulates Namibia on Independence

*MB2103174891 Gaborone Domestic Service
in English 1610 GMT 21 Mar 91*

[Text] The President, Dr. Quett Masire, has congratulated the government and people of Namibia for their steadfast progress since that country gained independence a year ago.

In his message, Dr. Masire said as Namibia celebrates its first anniversary of independence today he is confident that with the leadership qualities that the government of President Sam Nujoma has shown during the past year, Namibia will continue with its success at national reconciliation and prosperity of its people.

President Masire also expressed the hope that the cordial relations that exist between Namibia and Botswana will continue to grow from strength to strength and he wished President Sam Nujoma and his people good health and many more returns in the future.

Mogwe Discusses Oil, Gas Exploration Results

*MB2203160291 Gaborone Domestic Service
in English 0510 GMT 22 Mar 91*

[Text] The minister of mineral resources and water affairs, Mr. Archibald Mogwe, has briefed Parliament on the status of oil and gas explorations in the country as demanded by the special elected member of Parliament, Mr. Gaotlhaetse Matlhabaphiri.

Mr. Mogwe said large sedimentary basins were discovered in the Kgalagadi a number of years ago, following a Canadian sponsored aeromagnetic survey. Mr. Mogwe said in order to examine whether the rocks which fill the basins had any potential for generating and preserving oil gas the survey was followed up by a ground geophysical and geochemical survey, as well as drilling.

He explained that later in the National Development Plan Six, a 4,007-meter stratigraphic borehole was eventually drilled at Matseken Pan in western Botswana. The main objective of the drilling project was not necessarily to discover petroleum but to gather geological information that would assist in addressing the petroleum potential of that part of the country. The idea was to attract as many investors as possible to carry out further oil exploration activities.

The minister explained that the results achieved so far were not conclusive in terms of the real potential of the surveyed area.

Lesotho

King, Military Leader Send Namibia Greetings

*MB2103195291 Maseru Domestic Service
in English 1600 GMT 21 Mar 91*

[Text] His Majesty King Letsie III today congratulated the president of the Republic of Namibia on the occasion of the independence day of that country.

In his message, His Majesty said the people and the government of the Kingdom of Lesotho join him in extending to President Sam Nujoma and the Government of Namibia most sincere congratulations. He wished Dr. Nujoma good health, as well as peace and progress to his people.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the two ruling councils in Lesotho, His Excellency Major General Justin Metsing Lekhanya, has congratulated the prime minister of Namibia on the same occasion. In his [word indistinct] the chairman said on behalf of the government and people of Lesotho and his own behalf he wishes to extend his congratulations to the prime minister of Namibia, his government and the people of Namibia, his warmest congratulations on the occasion of the national day of that country. He said he trusts that the cordial ties of friendship that already exists between the two countries will continue to grow in strength for the mutual benefit of both the people of these two countries. He wished him personal good health and happiness for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of the Republic of Namibia.

Mozambique

Central Committee To Meet in Maputo 26 Mar

*MB2503184491 Maputo in English to
Southern Africa 1800 GMT 25 Mar 91*

[Text] The Central Committee of Mozambique's ruling party, Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front], is to meet tomorrow in Maputo for the first time this year. It will also be the first time the committee [words indistinct] since the coming into effect of the political parties act which legalizes the [words indistinct] of opposition parties.

The Central Committee meeting, which is expected to end on Friday [29 March], will [words indistinct] to analyze recommendations made by a conference of party cadres earlier this month. (It will also) discuss preparations for the (?sixth) congress of Frelimo, to be held this year at a date still to be set.

No agenda for the Central Committee meeting has been made public, but it is most likely that the members will be considering Frelimo's strategy for Mozambique's first

multi-party elections which President Chissano has said he wants to be held as soon as possible.

Council of Ministers Evaluates Draft Electoral Law

*MB2503185491 Maputo Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1730 GMT 25 Mar 91*

[Text] The Council of Ministers met in Maputo today to evaluate the draft electoral law.

Mocumbi on Sixth Round of Talks, Elections

*MB2603115891 Maputo Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1045 GMT 26 Mar 91*

[Text] Manfredo di Camerana, Italian ambassador to Mozambique and president of the joint commission established to monitor the partial Rome accord, told the press recently that the sixth round of talks between the Mozambican Government and Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] will take place on 8 April. Radio Mozambique asked Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi what will be discussed in the next round.

[Begin Mocumbi recording] We believe that the next round will discuss issues contained on the agenda already agreed upon in previous meetings with Renamo. I believe that there is no issue that cannot be discussed. As far as the government is concerned, we are ready to discuss any issue within the framework of the approved agenda. There will be no obstacles from the Mozambican Government's side. If there are obstacles in the meeting, they will come from Renamo. As far as the government is concerned, there is no obstacle that cannot be overcome. That is why we have negotiations. We are holding negotiations to overcome obstacles. [end recording]

Asked whether the continued Renamo armed actions would permit the expected multi-party elections to be held in the country, Pascoal Mocumbi said:

[Begin Mocumbi recording] Let me say this: Even if Renamo continues with the war and violence, we shall have to hold multi-party elections. In other words, in our search for peace and in the search for greater democracy for our country, if Renamo persists in refusing to sign a cease-fire, we cannot force the Mozambican people to continue to indefinitely accept the current People's Assembly deputies. As you are aware, the current assembly was elected in a war situation. As a matter of fact, it was elected at a time when the war situation was worse than it is now.

Accordingly, if we are unable to reach a cease-fire agreement with Renamo, we shall have to find ways to allow the people to choose their representatives in the country's ruling organs, thus enjoying the rights granted to them by the present Constitution. I believe we could do this. Of course, it is always better to carry out a democratic election in a peace situation. However, if the other side does not want this, if Renamo wants to continue to be a terrorist and violent organization, there is nothing we can do. Perhaps, this decision would even help us to bring about peace, if the leaders are elected democratically. [end recording]

No White Zimbabwean Farmers Settlement Contacts

*MB2203201691 Maputo Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1730 GMT 22 Mar 91*

[Text] Agriculture Minister Alexandre Zandamela has denied there have been any contacts between the Mozambican Government and white Zimbabwean farmers concerning their resettlement in Mozambique.

Alexandre Zandamela was reacting to an article carried by a Zimbabwean weekly, FINANCIAL GAZETTE, that Mozambican authorities had already extended an invitation to the Zimbabwe Farmers' Union for this purpose.

In a telephone interview with Radio Mozambique, the minister said: What we know is that Zimbabwean and South African farmers, as well as farmers from other countries, would like to settle in our country. He pointed out that he learned from the press that Zimbabwean farmers had considered the possibility of emigrating to Mozambique because of the Harare Government's decision to seize some of their land.

Financial Development Accord Signed With Portugal

*MB2203133691 Maputo Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1030 GMT 22 Mar 91*

[Text] In Lisbon, Mozambique and Portugal have signed an agreement on the elimination of double income taxation, and development of the financial sector. This is aimed at encouraging economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

According to the Portuguese News Agency, LUSA, the accord is expected to eliminate obstacles posed to investment by double taxation.

The agreement defines the responsibilities of each state for taxation in different revenue classes.

The document was signed by Mozambican Finance Minister Abdul Magid Osman and by Jose de Oliveira Costa, Portuguese secretary of state for financial affairs.

Namibia

23 Mar Press Review of Current Issues, Problems

MB2303115091

[Editorial Report]

TIMES OF NAMIBIA

Nation 'Shamed' by Government's Handing of Walvis Bay Issue—Windhoek TIMES OF NAMIBIA in English on 18 March in a page 2 editorial comments "There is no need to be a SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] member to be shamed by humiliations the government suffers at the hands of others. Being Namibians, we have been shamed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs's apology at the end of Thursday's [14 March] meeting with South Africa, 'the ways in which we organised and convened the

meeting raised high and unrealistic hopes.' The argument for the reincorporation of Walvis Bay and the off-shore islands might have been as sound as could be hoped for, and THE TIMES cannot find fault with the conclusion that 'Namibia's independence would be incomplete without the actual reintegration of Walvis Bay and the off-shore islands into the rest of the country'." However, "when a sound argument is structured as an ultimatum, it will defeat its purpose. This is what happened between the government presenting its case and the humbling apology with which they took their leave of Cape Town. The record ought to show that South Africa does not like to feel cornered, and will resist even international pressure to escape ultimatums."

Zambia

Finance Minister Dies of Heart Attack 24 Mar

MB2403164691 Johannesburg International Service
in English 1500 GMT 24 Mar 91

[Text] The Zambian finance minister, Mr. Gibson Chigaga, has died at the Lusaka University teaching hospital shortly after collapsing at Lusaka International Airport on his return home from a working visit to Europe.

Mr. Chigaga collapsed while preparing to address a news conference in the VIP lounge at the airport. He was rushed to hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. He had a history of heart problems.

Mr. Chigaga led a Zambian delegation to a meeting in Paris where donors pledged 650 million dollars for Zambia's economic restructuring program.

MMD Postpones 'Much Publicized' Rally in Lusaka

MB2303200891 Lusaka Domestic Service
in English 1800 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] The Movement for Multiparty Democracy, MMD, rally which was scheduled to take place today at Lusaka's [word indistinct] township was postponed for undisclosed reasons. Efforts to get MMD officials to comment on the postponement of the much publicized meeting proved fruitless. Among the speakers who were expected to address the rally was MMD President Frederick Chiluba.

Chiluba Denies MMD 'Dead'

MB2303201491 Lusaka Domestic Service
in English 1800 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] The president of the Movement for Multiparty Democracy [MMD] Frederick Chiluba has dispelled allegations that the movement was dead in Western Province,

saying it was still as strong as a popular party should be. Speaking in an interview with ZANA [ZAMBIA NEWS AGENCY] from his home in Ndola, Mr. Chiluba said he has been in the province and the movement was still doing well.

Mr. Chiluba said last Tuesday's [19 March] scheduled demonstrations and rally in Mongu could not take place because of the first MMD National Executive Committee meeting which all national and provincial leaders had to attend in Lusaka on Wednesday.

Debt Rescheduling Accord Signed With Italy

MB2203184491 Lusaka Domestic Service
in English 1800 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Finance Minister Gibson Chigaga has said Italy is expected to reschedule Zambia's debts of \$47.5 million in a (?general) step to normalize the country's relations with her creditors. Comrade Chigaga who was in France for a Paris Club meeting on Zambia, signed the agreement with Italy on behalf of the Zambian Government at a ceremony which took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome.

The minister, in his remarks, said the rescheduling would help normalize Zambia's relations with her creditors and demonstrate her commitment to adhere to the economic goals she has set. This brings to five the number of countries that have so far rescheduled Zambia's debts. The others are France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Britain, and the United States.

Minister Urges Envoys To Woo Foreign Investors

MB2103184691 Lusaka Domestic Service
in English 1830 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Zambia's envoys abroad have been directed to woo more firms to come and invest in viable projects to boost the economy at home. The minister of finance and national commission for development planning [title as heard], Gibson Chigaga, said in London today that increased food production was a key to Zambia's economic success and investors should be encouraged to put their money in agriculture, tourism, and industry.

Comrade Chigaga told the Zambian ambassador and high commissioners accredited to Europe, the United States of America, and Canada that the ruling UNIP [United National Independence Party] leadership at home was more than determined to drastically reduce the inflation from the present 100 percent to 40 percent this year.

The minister who is on his way home from the Paris Club meeting which gave Zambia \$650 million this year, attributed the delay in reducing the inflation to a number of factors, including the Gulf War which he said led to increases in oil prices.

Benin

Soglo Reportedly 'Won' Sunday's Elections

AB2503180191 Dakar PANA in English 1716 GMT
25 Mar 91

[Text] Cotonou, 25 March (ABP-BEN/PANA)—Interim prime minister, Nicephore Soglo, won the presidential elections held Sunday in Benin with 67.61 percent of the votes cast as against 32.39 percent scored by his rival, outgoing President Mathieu Kerekou. The figures are based on results obtained from all the voting centres except in Parakou, a town in the north-eastern part of the country where voting was suspended as a result of disturbances.

Some 42,888 voters were registered in the town and their vote cannot alter the result which will be officially ratified and announced by the High Council of the Republic (HCR), the supreme legislative organ of the transitional government which organised the elections. Complaints will be registered on 27 March, while the HCR is expected to meet on 28 and 29 March to consider complaints after which the final results will be announced on 30 March 1991.

Detailed results of the second round of presidential elections were recorded as follows: In the north-western Atacora Division, where Kerekou hails from, he scored 166,170 votes out of a total of 178,632 cast or 93.6 percent as against 11,352 votes or 6.4 percent received by Soglo in the area. In the Atlantic (south) and Zou (centre) Divisions, the results were in favor of Soglo. He obtained a total of 324,408 votes—or 93.2 percent—out of 350,233 votes cast in the Atlantic Division and 218,797 out of 242,494 votes cast in Zou Division.

In Mono (south-west), Soglo scored 114,196 votes (81.5 percent) against 25,902 votes (18.5 percent) for Kerekou from the 142,104 votes cast. In Oueme (south-east), Soglo obtained 197,281 (91 percent) against 19,622 (9 percent) for Kerekou from a total of 219,569 votes cast. The results confirmed the regional tendencies of the voting pattern observed during the first round presidential elections held on 10 March 1991.

HCR Chairman Interviewed on Elections, Soglo

AB2503192291 Libreville Africa No. 1
in French 1230 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Our magazine program today will center on Benin where Nicephore Soglo has just won the second round of the presidential elections held yesterday. According to almost final results, he has scored 67.61 percent against 32.39 for the outgoing president, Mathieu Kerekou. In this magazine program, our special correspondent Jean-Claude Frank Medome has interviewed Monsignor de Souza, who led the National Conference and who is the chairman of the High Council of the Republic [HCR], the country's highest body, about the fraud and violence

that marred the elections, and about rumors on the health of the Prime Minister Nicephore Soglo, who is reportedly very ill:

[De Souza] The fraud noted and reported on the election results sheets will be examined most objectively. Complaints that are not supported by concrete proof and which do not get to us within the legal deadline, however, will be rejected.

[Medome] Can we expect that the perpetrators of fraud will be punished?

[De Souza] If we get the instigators of these disturbances, well, we shall simply implement the law.

[Medome] The issue of the medical records of the presidential candidates has generated a lot of comment recently. What is the position now? Who were the candidates that were declared medically unfit by medical specialists?

[De Souza] In any case, I can tell you that no presidential candidate was declared unfit. As the medical doctors did not state clearly that this candidate was fit and this other was unfit, I will not be the one to say so, I am not a medical doctor.

[Medome] This notwithstanding, Mr. HCR Chairman, many Beninese are worried about Mr. Nicephore Soglo's health. What does the Constitution prescribe, since he is going to head the country?

[De Souza] When he presented his candidacy, Mr. Nicephore Soglo's file did not say he was medically unfit. The medical report showed he was in excellent condition. And now, (he is ill) and taking into account the rumors that have been circulating, you are asking me what will happen. First, I ardently wish him a quick recovery and I said several masses for his recovery. I prayed for him. So, I ardently wish that the prime minister recovers completely.

[Medome] The prime minister or the current president?

[De Souza] Officially, he is not yet president. I hope that the prime minister recovers completely and if he is officially declared winner, he should be able to take up his duty with all the courage for which we know him, with the necessary physical strength. I hope that all Beninese, whether they voted for or against him, will support him so that together, we can rebuild our country.

[Medome] Should his health worsen, what would happen?

[De Souza] We shall refer to the Constitution and we shall take the measures provided under the Constitution.

[Medome] What are these measures?

[De Souza] Under the Constitution, if the president of the Republic becomes incapacitated and there is hope that he will recover—so this is a temporary vacancy—he can appoint one of his ministers to run things until he

recovers. In case his condition is hopeless, well, we shall refer to the Constitutional Court which will declare that he can no longer assume his duties. Once the Constitutional Court makes this declaration, the speaker of the National Assembly will assume the functions of interim president. [end recording]

Violence Erupts in Parakou Over Election Run-Off

President Kerekou Urges Calm

*AB2603063091 Cotonou Domestic Service
in French 1930 GMT 25 Mar 91*

["Presidential Communique" read in the studio of the Cotonou Radio Broadcasting House in Cotonou on 25 March 1991 by Pierre Rocho, permanent undersecretary to the president of the Republic]

[Text] The president of the Republic and head of state communicates: Following the deplorable and regrettable incidents that took place in Parakou during the second round of the presidential elections on Sunday, 24 March 1991, and despite the curfew imposed on that town by the departmental administrative authorities, very whimsical and persistent rumors have been reaching us stating that arms and ammunition were allegedly dispatched against some of our fellow countrymen who are not from the Borgou Region.

These false rumors have provoked a climate of generalized panic among the peaceful people of southern origin residing in Parakou. This has led to a massive departure by road and railroad from the area. Faced with this serious situation, the president of the Republic and head of state wishes to make it known to all that the rumors of insecurity and terrorism being propagated and circulated in the northern region of our country are unfounded.

Profoundly attached to the preservation of social peace, political stability, national unity and harmony, President Mathieu Kerekou once again reminds all Beninese men and women from north to south and from east to west that any attempt to disturb the democratic process and any action aimed at creating trouble, disorder, and insecurity will be severely curbed.

The head of state solemnly warns uncontrolled elements who grope in the dark to carry out their sinister maneuvers that they do so at their own risk and peril. He calls on all Beninese communities and the various nationalities of our country not to yield to panic and to remain calm and confident throughout the national territory the integrity and tranquility of which will be ensured by the competent authorities who have been expressly instructed to do so.

Under any circumstance President Mathieu Kerekou renews the (?assertion) that nothing and nobody can with impunity go against the will of the sovereign people of the Republic of Benin who are resolutely engaged on the path of a new democratic process.

[Issued] In Cotonou on 25 March 1991.

Signed: Mathieu Kerekou

Curfew Extended

*AB2503163891 Paris AFP in French 1455 GMT
25 Mar 91*

[Text] Parakou, 25 Mar (AFP)—The curfew imposed last night in Parakou, 450 kms north of Cotonou, has been extended to today, it was learned on the spot from Beninese official sources. The curfew will now be in force from 1900 local time (1800 GMT) until tomorrow at 0600 local time.

The curfew was imposed because of the continuing tension in that town of 120,000 inhabitants, the largest in the north, official sources have said. Yesterday, violent ethnic clashes broke out during the run-off presidential elections, leaving two dead and about 15 wounded, including seven seriously, according to an account by hospital sources.

Ethnic Groups Flee Violence

*AB2603114191 Paris AFP in French 1025 GMT
26 Mar 91*

[Text] Parakou (Benin), 26 Mar (AFP)—Four persons belonging to ethnic groups from the south of Benin were wounded in knife attacks last night in Parakou (450 kms from Cotonou), where a curfew has been in effect until further notice, according to an official source at the scene.

Hundreds of members of southern ethnic groups, principally the Fons, were trying to leave the city this morning. Posted notices in many sections of the city ordered people from the south to leave or be "massacred."

Two persons were killed and about 20 wounded on Sunday [24 March] during ethnic violence that took place during the second round of presidential elections that opposed President Mathieu Kerekou, supported by the north, to Prime Minister Nicephore Soglo, who comes from the south. Groups of men with knives attacked voters suspected of belonging to southern ethnic groups and of having voted for Mr. Soglo, who has outdistanced General Kerekou in the presidential election.

Last night, stones were thrown at police and Army patrols and the home of the deputy police commissioner was pillaged.

Liberia

NPFL Denies Involvement in Sierra Leone Raid

*AB2603063291 London BBC World Service
in English 1709 GMT 25 Mar 91*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] In Sierra Leone over the weekend, a large group of armed men attacked a couple of villages in the Kailahun

District in the east of the country. Soldiers and civilians died and the suggestion was that the armed men were rebels loyal to the Liberian rebel leader, Charles Taylor. But could they have been Sierra Leoneans? From Monrovia, Elizabeth Blunt telexed this report:

[Begin announcer recording] There have been persistent reports over the months that Sierra Leoneans, Gambians, and other West Africans were fighting in Liberia's civil war as part of Charles Taylor's Patriotic Front forces, and that some of them were dissidents who eventually planned to use the training and weapons they had received in Liberia to go home and overthrow their own governments. The Patriotic Front leader, Charles Taylor, has every reason to encourage them. His ambition to capture Monrovia and take over the government in Liberia was thwarted by the arrival of the West African intervention force made up of troops from Gambia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ghana, and Guinea.

This attack on the Sierra Leone border is the first sign that these dissidents may finally have gone into action. Some of the non-Liberians with Charles Taylor's forces have been involved with him since the beginning, joining the movement in Libya, where the rebels were originally trained. But, one young Sierra Leonean, who recently arrived in Monrovia, having slipped across rebel lines, said that of the several hundred armed Sierra Leoneans who had been with the Patriotic Front in their headquarters in Gbarnga, most had been recruited inside Liberia from among the country's longstanding Sierra Leone community.

He said they were led by a man called Fode known as (Pa Moule), a man in his forties and much older than most of his followers. He said he wanted to overthrow President Momoh because of his refusal to bring in a multiparty system in Sierra Leone. [end recording]

After hearing that report on our program earlier, we were contacted by the leader of the Liberian National Patriotic Front Charles Taylor. He conceded that an incident had taken place in Kailahun over the weekend but denied that Sierra Leonean dissidents were involved or that it was started by his men. So Robin White asked him what, according to him, had happened.

[Begin recording] [Taylor] The preliminary reports show that there were some Sierra Leonean soldiers that crossed into Liberia, into (Vahun), and what my commanders are telling me in the area is that there was some shooting and they chased these soldiers back inside Sierra Leone. Now, to get a full report, I have ordered my second in military command to go into the area and investigate the matter because we do not need any trouble on our borders, because we are very good friends and brothers, and we do not need this kind of problem.

[White] So, it is possible that some of your men did cross into Sierra Leone, chasing these people who you claimed had come into Liberia, that is possible?

[Taylor] That is a possibility, probably not a probability but I have to wait until I get from my senior commander the actual report to make sure that things do not get out of hand. I am ordering my foreign minister back here to the capital to see if we can get him off to Freetown immediately or maybe Sierra Leonean foreign minister [words indistinct] to get to President Momoh because he is a friend of mine and we have no problems since President Momoh is our friend. We will never encourage any act of aggression against any member ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] state or any country sharing borders with us from this country. I will never do that.

[White] Now, there have been reports that there are Sierra Leone dissidents with your people in Liberia. Is that true or not?

[Taylor] No, that is not true, Robin. I will tell you something. The borders, you know...[changes thought] I am a member Gula tribe. The Gula group is from the Sierra Leonean border. Now, it is possible Robin in these rain forests in West Africa to have tribes, in fact, some of these colonial lines cut through villages and divide family people right down the middle of a village. You will have one-half of the family in Sierra Leone and one-half here in Liberia. But, it is almost impossible to distinguish between, you know, which Gula is from Sierra Leone or [words indistinct] which is from Liberia. You know because of these colonial lines, we do not have any organized Sierra Leonean movement. There are West Africans from all over the area, from all over Africa in Liberia, but we do not have any of them in our armed forces, and reporters of BBC and others that have come to this country have not been prevented from talking to individual soldiers, and no one can say that there have been Sierra Leoneans or whatever other in our army or here to carry out any act of aggression.

[White] We have got the name of somebody who is called Fode or nicknamed (Pa Moule) who is with you, a Sierra Leone dissident by that name.

[Taylor] No, I do not know any (Pa Moule) here, no. There are Sierra Leoneans here, a lot of Sierra Leoneans in Liberia, men, women, and children that are going about their normal business, but President Momoh has never [words indistinct] me of any such dissident in this country. And if such a dissident exists, I would be the first to go out to try to find him and to make sure that he does not get out of place. That is not to say that if there is such a person here, I would send him to President Momoh, because Liberia would not extradite anybody under my government, but I would make absolutely sure that he did not get funny to cause a problem between President Momoh and myself. [end recording]

11 Interest Groups Cleared To Sit at Conference*AB2103174491 Monrovia Radio ELBC
in English 0900 GMT 21 Mar 91*

[Text] Interest groups attending the all-Liberian conference have been seated. Out of the 14 interest groups invited to the conference, 11 were cleared. The decision to seat the interest groups follows a review of their case by the credentials committee yesterday. The groups appeared before the committee to show cause why they should be accredited at the conference. The National Patriotic Front of Liberia had earlier objected to their participation until they met the criteria for participation.

Three other groups did not appear before the credentials committee to show cause why they should be seated. The groups are: the Association for Constitutional Democracy based in the United States, the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas; and the Liberia Business Caucus. Their representation is being held up until they can appear before the credentials committee to show cause why they should be accredited.

Meanwhile, the report of the credentials committee has been adopted by the conference. Yesterday's session, which ran late in the evening hours, also began reviewing the report of the committee on rules and procedures. The deliberations continue today. A source close to the conference told ELBC news last night that some progress has been made. The source cited the adoption of the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] peace plan by the delegates as a breakthrough.

Conference Disqualifies Two*AB2403101891 Monrovia Radio ELBC
in English 0900 GMT 24 Mar 91*

[Text] As the All-Liberia National Conference [words indistinct] two interest groups have been disqualified from further participation in the conference. During Friday's session, the conference upheld the recommendations of the credentials committee to deny the participation of the Union of Liberian Associations in America and the Association of Constitutional Democracy in Liberia.

The decision is in keeping with Point 2 of the adopted criteria of the judicial committee on the eligibility of interest groups. According to the Point 2, interest groups must have been registered under Liberian laws to qualify for participation in the Liberian conference.

The conference also upheld the recommendations of the judicial committee to deny accreditation to Counselor Chea Cheapoo, the former chief justice under the government of the late Samuel Doe. The decision was based on grounds that Counselor Cheapoo's application did not meet any of the criteria adopted by the conference. He had already been denied accreditation by the committee on the same grounds and filed a second application for consideration. The conference, following the

review of the report of the rules and procedures committee, has adopted the committee's report.

Meanwhile, the conference has adopted the provisional agenda of the conference, which includes the adoption of the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] peace plan for Liberia.

Exit Visas, Extrajudicial Blacklisting Abolished*AB1903190691 Monrovia Radio ELBC
in English 0900 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] The issuance of exit visas to Liberian citizens wishing to travel out of the country has been abolished. LINA [LIBERIA NEWS AGENCY] reports that the commissioner of immigration and naturalization, Mr. (Kemor Sacko), said the Constitution of Liberia provides for the free movement of citizens in and out of the country without any restriction. However, the immigration commissioner observed that citizens were required to obtain exit visas for departures, something which, according to him, contravenes the new Alien and Nationality Law of Liberia. Addressing a press conference in Monrovia yesterday, Mr. (Sacko) said such a procedure is tantamount to creating inconveniences and hampers the free movement of citizens, especially in time of emergency. The issuance of exit visas was previously done by the Bureau of Immigration.

Meanwhile, the Immigration Bureau has also abolished the practice of blacklisting citizens and nonresidents upon a request of the individual or public corporations other than [by] a court of competent jurisdiction. The immigration commissioner said his bureau was taking the decision because of its commitment and belief in the rule of law consistent with the Constitution of Liberia and the policy of the Interim Government of National Unity.

Mali**President Traore Arrested by Military 26 Mar***WA2603032391 Paris AFP in English 0304 GMT
26 Mar 91*

[Text] Bamako, March 26 (AFP)—President Moussa Traore of Mali has been arrested by military officers, the head of the arid West African country's bar association said early Tuesday.

The official, Idrissa Traore, who is not related to the president, is the leader of one of scores of national organizations that have embraced a popular revolt against General Traore's 23-year rule that has left some 150 dead since Friday. He said he was quoting military officers and had no details on how the arrest took place. He said the officers appeared to have the situation in hand. A rumour had been circulating since midnight that General Traore had been arrested at Bamako's airport while attempting to flee.

The rumour's spread led to widespread rejoicing, the firing of firecrackers and cheers across the city, most of which has been left to the anti-government demonstrators who have been rioting since Friday.

But army tanks surrounded the government broadcasting building, the presidential palace and the state security building, where Gen. Traore was rumored to be detained.

A general strike aimed at ousting General Traore was widely followed on Monday.

More on President's Arrest

AB2603072691 London BBC World Service
in English 0630 GMT 26 Mar 91

[From the "African News"]

[Text] Reports from the northwest African state of Mali say that President Moussa Traore has been arrested and taken from the Presidential Palace to a military air base near the capital, Bamako. The reports, still unconfirmed, quote eyewitnesses and a prominent Malian lawyer, Mr. Idriss Traore—who is the president of the Barristers Association—as saying the military is in control and sympathetic to popular demands for democracy. He says the military has asked to meet leaders of the prodemocracy associations later today.

As reports spread of the president's arrest, residents cheered and set off fire crackers. Earlier, there had been another explosion of violence as crowds took to the streets burning road blocks and screaming slogans against President Traore. Tanks and armored cars took up position around the city and gunfire was heard. A general strike has been in force in the capital to press demands for the president's resignation and an end to killings by security forces. President Traore has been in office since 1968.

Opposition Announces Arrest

LD2603054391 Paris International Service
in French 0300 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Excerpt] [Announcer] In Mali [words indistinct] the opposition has just announced that President Moussa Traore has been arrested. [name indistinct] reports from Bamako:

[Correspondent] Moussa Traore has been arrested. The news was announced simultaneously by several opposition leaders contacted at about 0200 GMT. [words indistinct]. There are no details on the circumstances of the arrest which, however, is said to have taken place at Bamako airport yesterday evening.

The rumour had been circulating since midnight in the streets of the capital where the people [words indistinct] the news. A large deployment of soldiers was to be seen in several places, especially around the radio station.

According to some reports, the arrest of President Traore was decided jointly by Defense Minister Mamadou Coulibaly, the (?army) chief of staff [words indistinct] and the head of the paratroopers [name indistinct].

Opposition leaders also say a meeting is to be held with the military tomorrow morning to draw up a joint communique, a sign, they say, that they are ready to cooperate with the democratic associations. [passage omitted]

AFP Reports Fate of Government Leaders

AB2603140991 Paris AFP in French 1341 GMT
26 Mar 91

[Text] Bamako, 26 Mar (AFP)—Forty people were killed in Bamako last night, 19 more this morning, and about 200 were wounded, according to medical sources.

Among the dead were Bakary Traore, minister of national education, and Mamadou Diarra, the Malian president's brother-in-law. Their bodies, which were brought to the Gabriel Traore Hospital, were carried out of the building by a crowd and burned.

Looting continued throughout last night and into the morning.

The arrest of Moussa Traore and his wife took place without resistance, according to a reliable source; only a hard-core nucleus of former dignitaries' personal guards resisted for one or two hours after the principal government or ruling party leaders had been arrested. Many disappeared. It is not known whether they are in hiding, have fled, or been killed. The famous Ramos, the first lady's brother-in-law, until now director of Customs, was killed, according to some rumors. According to reports, some officials preferred to commit suicide rather than be massacred by the crowds.

National Reconciliation Council Issues Communiques

Takes Control of State

AB2603080491 Bamako Domestic Service
in French 0700 GMT 26 Mar 91

["Communique No. 1" issued in Bamako on 26 March by the National Reconciliation Council]

[Text] Considering the grave situation which our country is going through; considering the bloodbath carried out against our country; considering the obstinacy of Moussa Traore's regime to remain in power by all means; considering the climate into which that regime has plunged our country; considering the contemptuous attitude of that regime toward our people's legitimate desire to live a just and decent life, we, Malian Armed Forces and Security Forces, have formed a National Reconciliation Council [CRN] and decided, in conjunction with our

country's democratic organizations, to put an end to the bloodthirsty and corrupt regime of Moussa Traore and his clique.

With effect from now, the CRN, headed by Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumani Toure, will be responsible for the state's authority and the security of people and property all over the national territory. In this connection, the CRN appeals for support from all active forces of the nation: Farmers, cattle breeders, fishermen, traders, craftsmen, civil servants, pupils and students, and all socioprofessional groups in our country. The time has come for vigilance, and for reconciliation. At last, let us for ever eradicate corruption, speculations, nepotism, and all other unspeakable malpractices from our beloved country.

Long live the organizations and associations for democracy. Long live the Malian people. Long live the Republic, and long live the Army.

Urges Calm; Halt to Looting

*AB2603081091 Bamako Domestic Service
in French 0702 GMT 26 Mar 91*

["Communique No. 2" issued by the National Reconciliation Council in Bamako on 26 March]

[Text] Considering the suffering endured by our people in the past few months, the National Reconciliation Council [CRN] makes a stirring appeal to the people to ensure that the current major developments in our country will take place in calm, tolerance, and respect for human lives and property—virtues that have always been characteristic of our dear country. The CRN urges the people to eschew acts of looting and vandalism.

Suspends Constitution

*AB2603081891 Bamako Domestic Service
in French 0703 GMT 26 Mar 91*

["Communique No. 3" issued in Bamako on 26 March by the National Reconciliation Council]

[Text] As of today, 26 March 1991, the National Reconciliation Council, considering the disastrous situation which our country is going through, has decided to suspend the Constitution and dissolve the party and government. Agreements signed by our country on the subregional, regional, and international front as well as the Tamanrasset accords [with the Tuareg leaders] will, however, be respected. A firm commitment is hereby taken to create, within the shortest possible time, conditions for the establishment of (?unlimited) multipartyism.

Closes Border, Imposes Curfew

*AB2603082291 Bamako Domestic Service
in French 0752 GMT 26 Mar 91*

[Communique No. 4 issued in Bamako on 26 March by the National Reconciliation Council]

[Text] As of today, 26 March 1991, all national airports and borders are closed. The curfew is imposed all over the national territory from 2100 to 0500.

Offers Condolences to Bereaved

*AB2603094091 Bamako Domestic Service
in French 0752 GMT 26 Mar 91*

["Communique No. 5" issued in Bamako on 26 March by the National Reconciliation Council]

[Text] On this historic day, and following the painful events which have plunged our dear fatherland into mourning, the National Reconciliation Council wishes to present its most sincere condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the savage repression. We join them in praying for the repose of their souls, and for God's grace and mercy on their souls. Let us work together, hand in hand, so that our beloved Mali never again experience such a bloodbath which nothing whatsoever can justify.

Urges Citizens Abroad To Participate

*AB2603094691 Bamako Domestic Service
in French 0753 GMT 26 Mar 91*

["Communique No. 6" issued in Bamako on 26 March by the National Reconciliation Council]

[Text] In these painful moments, the National Reconciliation Council urgently appeals to our compatriots living abroad to become more engaged in the task of building a democratic society for which our people have sacrificed the blood of their children. Your contribution, however little, will be necessary for the successful realization of this gigantic task.

Asks Ministries To Ensure Services

*AB2603131491 Bamako Domestic Service
in French 1225 GMT 26 Mar 91*

["Communique No. 7" issued in Bamako on 26 March by the National Reconciliation Council]

[Text] As of today, 26 March 1991, the National Reconciliation Council calls on permanent secretaries of ministries to ensure the smooth functioning of state agencies and organizations under their ministries in accordance with the prevailing laws.

Amadou Toure's 'Initial Remarks' Reported

*AB2603104291 Bamako Domestic Service
in French 0956 GMT 26 Mar 91*

[Excerpt] The average age of the young Army officers who made history today is 40. They are led by Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumani Toure, who is aged 43. He is a battalion commander with the paratroopers commando unit. When I asked him his first impressions, his initial remarks follow: Give me the time to make contact with the people, my people, for whom we have taken this action, then I will be able to tell you in detail what our future action will be.

But judging from the various communiques, we can say that this future action involves the establishment of an unlimited multiparty system, social justice, and total democracy in our country. [passage omitted]

National Reconciliation Council Members Listed

*AB2603130291 Bamako Domestic Service
in French 1248 GMT 26 Mar 91*

[Text] We are now able to read to you the list of the members of the National Reconciliation Council which is composed of the following: Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumani Toure; Lt. Col. Oumar Diallo; Major Anatole Sangare; Lt. Col. (Mamadou Popoure); Lt. Col. (Katougouna Kone); Lt. Col. Bakari Coulibaly; Lt. Col. Ousmane Maiga; Squadron Leader (Souleymane Natigui-be); Maj. Harouna Traore; Lt. Col. Cheikh Oumar Diarra; Maj. Moussa Diabate; Maj. (Lamine Diabira); Maj. (Kaba Samake); Captain Siaka Kone; Squadron Leader Lancine Kone; Capt. Boubacar Keita; and Squadron Leader Amidou Cissoko.

More on CRN Members

*AB2603164791 Paris AFP in French 1507 GMT
26 Mar 91*

[Text] Bamako, 26 Mar (AFP)—The main author of former Malian President Moussa Traore's overthrow, Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumani Toure, commander of the "Red Berets" paratroop unit, is presiding over the National Reconciliation Council [CRN]. He is 42 or 43, has a mustache, and seems jovial. According to those close to him, he was a classmate of former Burkina leader Thomas Sankara. He has recently attended a course at the French War College.

One of his assistants seems to be Lt. Col. Bakari Coulibaly, the Gendarmerie chief of staff. Observers were surprised by the presence in the CRN of several people who were close to Moussa Traore, notably his aide de camp Lt. Col. Oumar Diallo and Lt. Col. Cheikh Oumar Diarra, until now the permanent secretary at the Defense Ministry.

The following are the 17 members of the CRN as reported by Radio Mali: Lt. Col. Amadou Toumani Toure, Lt. Col. Oumar Diallo, Major Anatole Sangare, Lt. Col. Mamadou Toure, Lt. Col. Tafsina Kone, Lt. Col.

Bakari Coulibaly, Lt. Col. Ousmane Maiga, Squadron Leader Souleymane Sidibe, Maj. Arouna Traore, Lt. Col. Cheikh Oumar Diarra, Maj. Moussa Diabate, Maj. Lamine Diabira, Maj. Sada Samake, Capt. Diakha Kone, Squadron Leader Bakari Kone, Capt. Boubacar Keita, Squadron Leader Alirou Sissoko.

Coordinating Committee on Talks With CRN

*AB2603131091 Bamako Domestic Service
in French 1206 GMT 26 Mar 91*

["Communique No. 3" issued by the Coordinating Committee of Associations and Organizations in Bamako on 26 March; read by Oumar Mariko, third chairman of the Coordinating Committee—live]

[Text] Dear compatriots: One of our major demands was the downfall of Moussa Traore's dictatorial regime. This occurred today thanks to our determination to win. The Coordinating Committee informs you that it received the National Reconciliation Council [CRN] today, Tuesday, and is satisfied with this first contact.

Dear compatriots, in these solemn and decisive hours of our country's history, the Coordinating Committee of Associations and Organizations calls on the population to put an immediate end to acts of vandalism and looting which will only destroy our economy. The committee counts on the civic-mindedness and sense of responsibility of each and every citizen to safeguard peace and restore calm.

Long live the Coordinating Committee of Associations and Organizations. The struggle continues.

Chairman Interviewed

*AB2603145591 Bamako Domestic Service
in French 1300 GMT 26 Mar 91*

[Interview with Demba Diallo, president of the Malian Bar Association and chairman of the Coordinating Committee of Democratic Associations and Organizations at the Labor Exchange, by Modibo Sidiki Traore in Bamako on 26 March—recorded]

[Text] [Diallo] I got an excellent impression. I had the opportunity to present my warmest congratulations to this group of patriotic officers. They told us something that we found very comforting. Tomorrow, I will have the opportunity to explain this to our activists, some of whom still take fright simply at the sight of uniformed men. They are right because men in uniform have caused a trauma among the Malian people. But we never lost all hope in the Malian Army.

Today, the Coordinating Committee asked me to present an appeal to the Army to explain to them that they run the risk of assuming a very heavy responsibility before history if they agree to serve as the executioners of a bloodthirsty autocrat (?whom) history will judge severely. Since 1960, General Soumare had accustomed us to seeing the Malian Army transformed into an army

where the soldier citizen replaced the soldier killer. But Moussa Traore initiated a different conception of the Army by gradually establishing his dictatorship, which could only be perpetuated through bloodshed.

But no other Sahel country has ever witnessed such a dreadful bloodbath as we have just witnessed here. The other day, I said on French television that people are not paying attention to the fact that when Moussa Traore speaks of violence and states that violence has never helped solve any problem, he takes Malians for idiots because, although 1968 was a long time ago, he entered history through violence and has maintained himself in power through violence by eliminating all his peers; he continued to hold power by drowning the Malian people in a bloodbath.

As a result, the insurrection was inevitable because of the general strike. Even if the Army had not intervened, our victory would have been certain. When we buried our dead and saw an elderly woman at the Niarela Cemetery take off her dress and sit naked on the ground before everyone to call a curse upon Moussa Traore, we were certain that the God of love and kindness was on our side and that Moussa Traore's days, even hours, were numbered. The Army simply stepped in to accelerate the process. After this, the officers made a point of paying their first visit to our Coordinating Committee. They commendably and honestly said that their action was inspired by us. They thought that the strike process would be long and that with arms, they could impose force. And that is what they did.

They coolly went in for Moussa Traore, who put up no resistance whatsoever. They told him: We came to get you for your own safety. He said: I entrust myself to God. He remembered after all that God existed and that hell is not in his hands.

What do these young people want? All they want is that we stand by them; that we advise them and help them; that a national conference or something like that be instituted; that a transition government be formed for the establishment of a full-fledged and complete democracy, a system of political pluralism, a total democracy; and their intention is not to take power. That is of no interest to them. As long as they live, no soldier will again take power. They will remain arbitrators so that the legitimate government, which the Malian people will put in place, can work under the supervision of the people's army, which will not limit itself solely to borders, but will ensure that the uniform no longer usurps the people's power...

[Reporter, interrupting] Lawyer, what do you plan to do with these young people who are now in power?

[Diallo] We are simply drawing up a preamble, noting that they did us a great honor by giving us the credit for their coup, which Karambe described as a counter-coup d'etat, perhaps, but it was (?against) Moussa Traore's (?regime). Now our objective was to embark on an unlimited, general political strike until Moussa Traore

was swept away. Thanks to them, Moussa Traore was not able to run away. Moussa Traore is there, with his (?acolytes) who took to hiding. He was found. All the others were taken, and the immense wealth that they stole from the people will not leave because we have them in our hands.

[Reporter, interrupting] [words indistinct]

[Diallo] If they were allowed to run away, this wealth would have been... [changes thought] I do not know exactly who are with [words indistinct]

[Reporter, interrupting] [words indistinct]

[Diallo] Now, to be precise, I am just telling you that if he had died, we would not have been able to retrieve the property abroad. In Geneva, accounts are blocked, and no one can make any withdrawals from them. If he had fled, we would not have had any access to the property inside the country either. But once he is there, alive and in our hands, not only will the immense wealth—which is unfortunately too conspicuous and is seen every day by the people with a heavy heart—be retrieved, but they will also, since they are there in our hands, be compelled to return to the people the wealth that is also inside the country. That is the advantage...

[Second reporter, interrupting] Lawyer, as you may have heard, people are on a rampage and looting in town. What kind of appeal do you intend to make to the people?

[Diallo] People are on a rampage in town... [changes thought] Hunger brings the wolf out of the woods, but things are being exaggerated. Since midnight, I have been in the street. I have not slept for even a minute. Since midnight, we have been doing all we can. We now have a van mounted with a microphone that is going around. We asked a short while ago that an appeal be prepared and broadcast as soon as possible, asking Malians—however destitute they may be—to maintain their dignity and not transform themselves into looting bandits.

AFP Reports Death Toll at 59 in Bamako

*AB2603135191 Paris AFP in French 1328 GMT
26 Mar 91*

[Text] Bamako, 26 Mar (AFP)—Forty people were killed in Bamako last night, 19 more this morning, and about 200 were wounded, according to medical sources.

Among the dead was Bakary Traore, minister of national education, and Mamadou Diarra, the Malian president's brother-in-law. Their bodies, which were brought to the Gabriel Traore Hospital, were carried out of the building by a crowd and burned.

Looting continued throughout last night and into the morning.

Mutiny in Bamako Prison Leaves 15 Dead

*AB2503193491 Paris AFP in French 1853 GMT
25 Mar 91*

[Text] Bamako, 25 Mar (AFP)—A mutiny this morning at the Bamako Central Prison has left 15 dead and an undetermined number of people wounded, it was learned this afternoon from sources close to medical circles. It was reported that the prison authorities have, in particular, asked a Bamako hospital to reserve 15 places at the mortuary to keep these victims, the same sources said.

According to sources close to judicial circles, the mutiny reportedly started this morning when, implementing an agreement between the government commission and the coordinating committee, the prison authorities began releasing the first 24 "political" detainees who were arrested during student demonstrations in January and last weekend. The common law detainees all tried to break out of jail using the occasion of the political detainees' release, according to the same sources.

Some unconfirmed accounts reported a fire in the prison while, according to other rumors, the mutiny was generated by the desire to participate "in the popular vengeance" against the Malian security forces.

Workers Union Calls for Suspension of Strike

*AB2603151491 Bamako Domestic Service
in French 1400 GMT 26 Mar 91*

[Statement by Ousmane Niaret, administrative secretary of the National Union of Malian Workers, UNTM, in Bamako on 26 March—live]

[Text] Comrade workers, after an analysis of the new political situation in our country today, on Tuesday 26 March 1991, the Executive Bureau of the National Union of Malian Workers (UNTM) has decided during the extraordinary meeting it held today 26 March 1991 to call for a suspension of the unlimited strike begun on 25 March 1991. Consequently, the UNTM Executive Bureau calls on all workers to resume work tomorrow, Wednesday 27 March 1991, at 0100 throughout all the nation's territory.

International Telecommunications Links Cut

*AB2603124591 Paris AFP in French 1156 GMT
26 Mar 91*

[Text] Dakar, 26 Mar (AFP)—All telephone and telegraphic communications between Mali and foreign countries were cut today, according to experts here. Radio Mali monitored here did not report this as part of

the measures taken by the National Reconciliation Council, which took over after overthrowing President Moussa Traore's regime that had ruled the country since November 1968.

The council has decreed a curfew and closed the borders and airports. Meanwhile, the Bamako-Dakar train service has not operated since the former Malian regime declared a state of emergency and imposed a curfew in Mali.

Senegal

Resident Malians on Arrest; Reject Military

*AB2603151791 Paris AFP in French 1304 GMT
26 Mar 91*

[Text] Dakar, 26 Mar (AFP)—Malian citizens in Senegal have met within the framework of a coordinating committee and affirmed in a communique that they have learned with "relief" the news of President Moussa Traore's arrest, which constitutes "an incontestable victory for the Malian people." However, the committee does not want "any more of a military regime, even if it is one of national reconciliation." "We recognize only the Coordination Committee (of democratic organizations) as the incarnation of the aspirations of our people for democracy," the text added. The Coordination Committee of Malians in Senegal published the communique at the end of a gathering this morning in front of the Mali Embassy in Dakar to denounce the "carnage in Mali," which has left over 160 people dead.

Another protest rally against the "killings" in Mali was held today in front of the Malian Embassy. It was organized by about 20 Senegalese parties, humanitarian organizations, and trade unions.

In another development, the Association of African Jurists (AJA) expressed fears at seeing power confiscated by the military in Mali and demanded that those who have just overthrown President Traore indicate without delay the program they intend to pursue in organizing the country's democratization. The AJA stressed that the Malian people have waged a heroic struggle for a democratic and pluralistic society and that only a democratic consultation involving the totality of political forces, trade unions, and the representatives of all sectors of Malian society can guarantee the establishment of a democratic regime and guard against all the dictatorial practices of the past."

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27 March 1991

